

Mr Heffer to defy Mr Wilson by attacking EEC in House

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Paper and intended to make an anti-EEC speech from the back benches. Ministers have been ordered not to speak against government policy on Europe in the Commons. Differences over the ruling emerged at yesterday's Cabinet.

Backbench rebels harry Prime Minister

David Wood, Editor of the *Financial Times*, has been criticised by some of his anti-backbenchers, teased and teased by the Opposition. Mr Wood yesterday struggled in the House of Commons to shore up the Government's position on the renegotiation of the EEC Treaty. He was not alone in his struggle. He had a number of allies, but they were not enough to overcome the opposition. He was criticised by some of his anti-backbenchers, teased and teased by the Opposition. Mr Wood yesterday struggled in the House of Commons to shore up the Government's position on the renegotiation of the EEC Treaty. He was not alone in his struggle. He had a number of allies, but they were not enough to overcome the opposition.

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New Belfast bombing outrage by Provisionals

From Christopher Walker, Belfast

Security in Northern Ireland deteriorated further yesterday when explosions and fire severely damaged one of the largest department stores in Belfast. Although the Provisional IRA ceasefire is theoretically in its fifty-eighth day, it is beginning to mean less and less to the citizens of Belfast.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, visiting troops on the walls of Londonderry yesterday.

The Belfast brigade of the Provisional IRA said it had planted the bombs in retaliation for army raids on homes in republican areas, which had continued in spite of a warning issued last week after a bomb attack on a travel agency and two shops.

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Pilot angry over fall of Da Nang bombs Thieu palace in Saigon

From Peter Hazelhurst, Saigon, April 8

A South Vietnamese Air Force F-4 fighter-bomber crashed on the outskirts of Saigon this morning and dropped three bombs and rockets over the Independence Palace. President Thieu's official residence and office are near the city centre.

The episode began at 8.30 am when the silver jet, gliding in the blue sky, screamed low over the city towards the palace. Half a mile to the north-west, from an hotel roof top it could be seen streaking above the trees which screen the palace, then swooping up into a tight spiral and falling.

The pilot, who was separated from his family after the Government abandoned Da Nang to the communists last month, made two low runs over the city before it dropped three 250lb bombs over the large white building.

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Chiefs of big firms back membership

Business News Staff
The support among the chiefs of the largest companies for continued membership of the European Community is disclosed in a survey carried out by *The Times*. Of 419 replies received, 615 company chairmen, were in favour of continued membership, only three were against and one did not know.

The response to questions about the likely effects of withdrawal on three specific aspects of their company's business was less clear cut. 50.2 per cent felt it would tend to increase their company's business, but 47 per cent thought it would be lower. Asked about the likely net foreign exchange earnings of their companies if Britain withdrew, 58.7 per cent expected them to be lower, 31.1 per cent expected them to remain unchanged, and 4.2 per cent expected them to be higher. The rest expressed no view.

Mrs Thatcher rules out double-U turns

By Hugh Noyes, Westminster Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher, opening the second day of the Commons debate on the Government's recommendation that Britain should remain in Europe, yesterday said she would not change her mind about the change in the Tory leadership brought about by a lukewarm approach to membership of the Community. Indeed, this must surely have been the occasion when Mrs Thatcher finally established herself in Parliament as the undisputed leader of her party.

Europe by a vast majority and that the Conservative Party would not think of performing double-U turns on the issue. Mrs Thatcher set out, one by one, the main arguments for remaining in Europe. The Community, she pointed out, was the largest trading and political unit in the world, larger than the United States in the amount of goods imported and in the amount of aid given out. Remaining in the House that half of Britain's trade was with Europe, she added that about four fifths of our deficit in that area came from the imports of about five commodities. If these had not come from Europe, they would have been bought elsewhere in the world at the same or increased price.

Continued on page 4, col 8

European poll likely to be held on June 5

David Spangler
Tuesday, June 5, looks like the date of the European referendum. That date will be decided by the Government at the end of the European debate in the Commons. It is signed and sealed as June 5 because complications in the legislation may intervene, but that is the target date. The Government's aim is to hold the referendum as early as possible. That is partly to get it over with and to end the political difficulties which it is saddled with.

which it is saddled with; and partly a calculation that the chances of a 'Yes' vote will be better the sooner the referendum is held. June 5 is the first practicable date, although some ministers would have preferred it earlier. The Referendum Bill has to go through both Houses and receive the Royal Assent, and a period of three to four weeks is then deemed necessary for the final campaign and preparation of poll cards.

On the Government front, the Prime Minister continued, provided a world role for Britain and opened windows on the whole world that had been closing since the end of the war. Douglas Jay tried to argue the virtues of withdrawal and the benefits of new trading arrangements from outside the EEC. Mrs Thatcher calmly told him that the time to start asking for new treaties was not at the moment when one had broken the last one.

Other EEC news, page 4
Parliamentary report, page 14

Zagreb crash train driver admits he dozed off

Zagreb, April 8.—The driver of a train that crashed in Zagreb last August killing 153 people admitted in court today that he had dozed off.

His admission came at the end of a three-week hearing into the cause of the derailment of the Belgrade to Dortmund express as it entered Zagreb station on August 20. He said he and his assistant had worked more than 300 hours that month and were over-tired. They are charged with grave offences against public safety and face imprisonment for up to 20 years.

Government loses in 'Scots' lay Cross' vote

The Government suffered defeat in the Commons yesterday over what was called the 'Caledonian Clay Cross' clause in the Local Government (Scotland) Bill. The clause would allow the Secretary of State discretion to surcharge on councillors. Our official staff says rejection of the clause must be seen as a possible indication of peer resistance when the Housing (Special Provisions) Bill, the Clay Cross Bill, is introduced.

Mr Charles Clarke, aged 24, a Cambridge graduate from Highgate School, is the new president of the National Union of Students, representing the Broad Left of communists, Labour Party members, and non-aligned socialists. He defeated Mr Terry Povey, aged 27, Trotskyist leader of the International Socialists. Mr Francis Hayden, Liberal, was third.

Maximum jail terms

Parliament should drastically reduce the maximum prison sentences judges can pass, Mr Louis Bloom-Cooper, QC, chairman of the Howard League for Penal Reform, said yesterday. The statutory maximum penalties were absurdly high and the area of discretion in sentencing too large, he said.

Airport to close: Manchester airport is to close today until further notice because it cannot guarantee continuing services to airlines in the face of strike threats.

South African protest over shots at airliner

From Michael Kupe, Cape Town, April 8
The South African Government lodged a strong protest with the Portuguese today over the shooting at a South African Airways jumbo jet bound for London as it landed last night at Luanda airport in Angola. The Boeing 747 was hit by six shots, five of them in an empty reserve fuel tank as it approached the runway.

One of the airliner's 16 tyres burst but the landing was normal in other respects. Most of the 287 passengers on board apparently were unaware of what had happened. There has been some speculation that the Boeing was mistaken for a Portuguese airliner with leaders of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) on board, but it seems more likely that the 747 was hit accidentally. The headquarters of two rival movements—the MPLA and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola—are situated near an airport approach path, and a gunfight between them was in progress at the time. The South African aircraft remained at the end of the runway for half an hour without the passengers disembarking and then took off without refuelling.

South Africa to pull out of Rhodesia

South Africa has promised to withdraw security forces from Rhodesia by the end of next month, Vernon Mwaanga, a Zambian Foreign Minister, told the parliament of African Union in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He said: 'Prime Minister Vorster has assured us.'

Lisbon restricts base

Portugal will not allow the American base in the Azores to be used in another Middle East war, Brigadier Gonçalves, the Prime Minister, announced at a press conference in Lisbon yesterday.

Magnetic mystery

Magnetism attracted some strange explanations among the ancient sages of the Classical Association, which met yesterday, but, as Philip Howard reports, even today we are no nearer the truth.

PVC danger: A congress at York last night said that PVC, the most widely used material in spare-part surgery, may cause hepatitis.

Oil Bill: Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday introduced a Bill establishing the British National Oil Corporation.

Insold French wine

French wine-growers held a good natured demonstration in Brussels yesterday, handing out tracts to explain why 50 per cent of their harvest last year was still unsold because of the moratorium of foreign wine.

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Jail control units: Former prisoner says men are subjected to inhuman and degrading conditions in experiments in physical and psychological control of inmates.

Site rejected: Organizers of the Windsor free pop festival yesterday rejected a Home Office offer of a 200-acre site because they said it was unsuitable.

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The world's best reason for not spending a penny more than £10,773 on a car.

Normally, the most expensive product is unanimously acknowledged as best.

Our cars seem to be the exception that proves the rule.

With a top price of £10,773, our S class saloons are far from being the world's most expensive.

Yet motoring experts the world over consider them best.

Across the Atlantic, Road and Track described our 450SE as "the best limousine in the world."

A similarly impressed Motor Trend Magazine recently added it to their Hall of Fame, as the sole representative of seventies' motoring.

And made the following observation.

"All the proper specifications are there. A V8 with a cam topping each head, fuel injection, all independent suspension, disc brakes at each wheel and incredible refinement.

Whether ride, handling, finish, quality or status is your goal, the 450SE has it."

Predictably, the 450SE has also made quite a name for itself in its native Germany.

The quarterly Motor Revue reports.

"Optimal safety and a high technical level characterise the Mercedes-Benz SE.

For a car in its class, it can be driven unusually precisely and easily. Roadholding and cornering are exceptional. The 450SE contains in one single car achievements that border on perfection."

European journalists appear similarly impressed with our 450SEL.

As the following extract from France's Auto Journal demonstrates.

"From the moment it made its appearance, all car specialists placed the 450SEL at the

pinnacle of production cars, for engineering and design as well as construction."

This side of the Channel, Motor Magazine has praised the 450SEL just as highly.

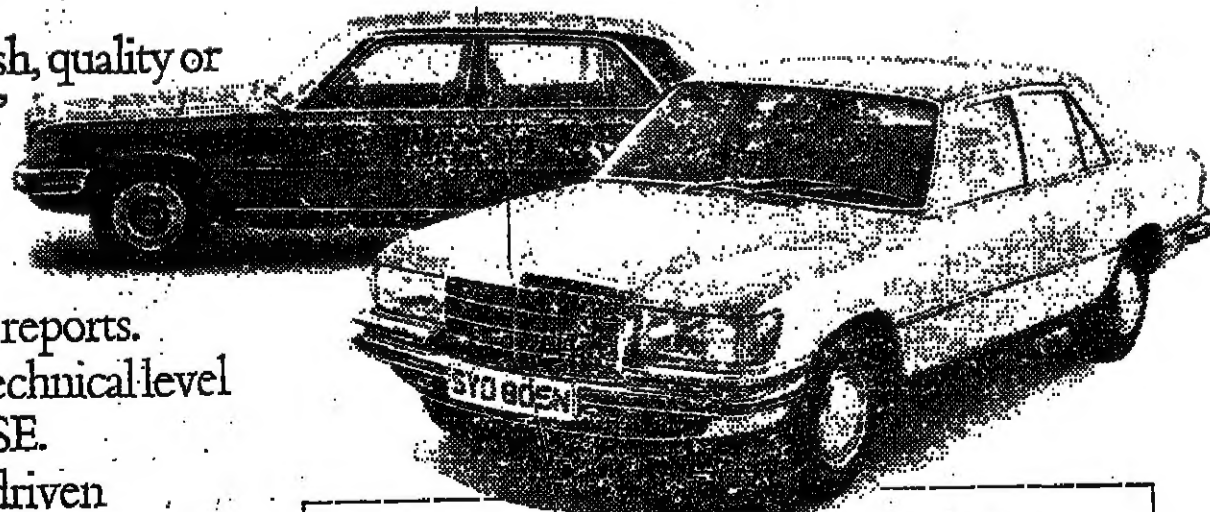
It described our car's handling as "absolutely astonishing." Its power steering as "uncannily accurate and responsive." Its stability and brakes as "outstanding." And judged its interior to be "as capacious a four seater as most people could ever want."

One of their most experienced testers went even further, by stating that it was "the best car he'd driven."

Pleasantly, you don't have to pay our 450SEL's top price tag to drive one of the world's best cars.

Our slightly shorter 450SE costs from £9,693. While the slightly less powerful 280SE and 350SE ranges start around £7,200.

Great value, when you realise that lesser cars cost many thousands more.



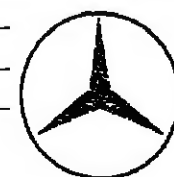
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Please ask my local Mercedes-Benz dealer to provide me with more information about the S-class saloons.

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Mercedes-Benz. The way every car should be built.

The prices mentioned include Car Tax and VAT but not delivery charge, number plate or road tax. The prices are for the 450SEL. The 450SE costs from £9,693. The 280SE and 350SE ranges start around £7,200. The prices are for the 450SEL. The 450SE costs from £9,693. The 280SE and 350SE ranges start around £7,200.



BRISTOL CHANNEL SHIP REPAIRERS LTD
CHANNEL DRYDOCK
CARDIFF CF1 5UN

17th March 1975

The Rt Hon Lord Beswick
Department of Trade and Industry
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of the 14th March 1975 referring to the meeting which Shop Steward and Management representatives had with you on the 11th March.

At that, our first meeting, you said -

- 1) "I admire the way you have put your case - I think you have a case."
- 2) "If you had been the only Company I do not think the question of public ownership would have arisen."
- 3) "But obviously as far as your men are concerned they are not going to get the improvements which I hope will come from this change elsewhere."

At that meeting you answered none of the questions raised by Shop Steward representatives. Nor have you in your letter.

You have made no mention of the ways in which we would maintain or improve the service to our customers - our lifeblood. May we remind you that 80% of our wages depend on ships specially diverting to us, and 62% on foreign-owned ships - exports?

You accuse us of creating anxiety in the minds of our workforce. It is the Government which has created this anxiety by announcing plans to nationalise us without explaining the practical and specific ways in which they would benefit us. May we remind you that we live in South Wales? Steel closures, railway closures, pit closures have all followed nationalisation. Our six yards have an average of under 100 people. They are spread out over about 70 miles. What notice, however regionalised, can a corporation employing over 25,000 men take of such a minnow hundreds of miles from Head Office? You answer none of our questions and fears. You give us instead an assurance which could mean anything or nothing.

/Continued.....

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You said that you hoped you could bring up the other Yards to our standard. May we remind you, once again, of the consequences that follow putting some good apples in a basket of bad apples.

You have made no comment on the inconsistency of legal drafters choosing a cut-off point that includes all our Yards simply because they are rationalised, but excludes yards which employ more than any one of ours. You have made no comment on the fact that because we are so small our exclusion would in no way dilute the purpose or principle of the nationalisation proposals.

You have made no comment on our willingness to work with you through planning agreements, or on our offer to you to take a shareholding in our future.

You have made no comment whatsoever on our suggestion that a referendum on nationalisation be held in our Yards.

We request as of right an immediate meeting with you and Mr Benn with Shop Steward and Management representatives to obtain specific and practical answers to our questions before our Company is referred to in any Government announcement or Bill.

How do you expect us, Management and Employees, to react when our requests for information go unheeded? We need this information for our consideration so we can make up our minds.

The Management and Shop Steward representatives who were at our meeting on the 11th March and who are co-signatories to this letter have been in Shiprepairing all their lives.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed by)

Management Representatives,

Chairman, Shop Stewards Committee,

Vice-Chairman, Shop Stewards Committee.

I agree with the attached letter and the request for an urgent meeting with Mr. Benn and Lord Beswick to give us the specific and practical answers to our questions.

Over 75% of us, the employees of Bristol Channel Ship Repairers, have signed this petition.

We want to know what benefits nationalisation will bring us.

We want to know what benefits it will bring our customers—our wages depend on attracting them to South Wales.

Then we can decide for ourselves.



**Bristol Channel
Ship Repairers Ltd.**

Tell us of any benefits. Then let us decide.

WEST EUROPE

Portuguese regime decides to place curbs on US base

From Nicholas Ashford
Lisbon, April 8

Portugal will not allow the American base in the Azores to be used against the Arab countries in the event of a renewed outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East, Brigadier Vasco Gonçalves, the Portuguese Prime Minister, said here today. He also spoke of the possibility of an economic boycott by capitalist countries which disapproved of recent political developments in Portugal.

The future of the Lajes base, which was used during the airlift of military supplies to Israel during the 1973 Middle East war, has been under discussion for some time. Brigadier Gonçalves said that a number of European countries had denied landing facilities during the 1973 conflict and that similar action by Portugal would not therefore be unusual.

Under the present treaty there is no provision for the United States to consult Portugal in advance over the use of the base. In the opinion of Western observers, however, the Portuguese would be unlikely to take any action forcibly to prevent the Americans from landing there should a Middle East war break out before a new treaty had been negotiated.

Brigadier Gonçalves was addressing an international press conference, the first he has held since coming to office nine months ago, at the Gulbenkian Foundation art museum in Lisbon, where a press centre has been established for the duration of the election campaign.

During the conference Brigadier Gonçalves answered questions, most of which had been submitted in advance on the political situation, Portugal's foreign relations, decolonization and the economy. He also made several critical references about the foreign press which he accused of spreading Portugal and of publishing false reports about the situation in the country.

Questioned about his reference to a possible boycott, Brigadier Gonçalves said that a number of multinational companies had withdrawn from Portugal "with no reason". Herr von Hassel, the vice-president of the West German Bundestag, had also said during a visit that conditions were not suitable for foreign investment.

Brigadier Gonçalves, like a number of other Portuguese leaders, has expressed fears that "economic sabotage" could create conditions in Portugal similar to those which contributed to the downfall of the Allende regime in Chile.

He reiterated his country's determination to abide by existing treaties, including its commitments to NATO. It would be up to the people and not the provisional Government to decide in the future whether the country would remain in the alliance or not, he said.

Portugal wanted peaceful co-existence with all countries but would not tolerate foreign interference. During his two-hour discourse Brigadier Gonçalves, who is one of the more radical members of the ruling Armed Forces Movement, adopted a more moderate tone than during some of his television broadcasts. He said the aim of the movement and the "progressive" political parties was to establish socialism, but he emphasized that this could not be done overnight.

"We must achieve this aim with the least possible disturbance," he said. The bourgeoisie, as well as the working class, was necessary "to help transform our country."

He described Portugal as the most free in the whole of Europe. In spite of the coup attempts on September 28 and March 11 no curfews or states of siege had been imposed. The recent nationalization of banks and insurance companies had been carried out "in a climate of complete freedom". The number of heavily armed troops around the press centre, however, cast some doubt on the movement's intentions.

The brigadier did not refer to the political prisoners held in jails whose numbers exceeded considerably those held under the previous regime. A meeting of the general assembly of the Armed Forces Movement decided last night that people arrested for complicity in the March 11 coup attempt would be tried by a revolutionary military tribunal. It ruled out the possibility of the death penalty.

Brigadier Gonçalves said the constitutional proposals prepared by the Supreme Revolutionary Council would, in effect, place the country under military rule for the next three years. It would be signed by the political parties this week.

The proposals "guaranteed the revolutionary process which was already under way in Portugal." "We must not lose through the election what we have achieved since April 25," he added.

The brigadier made it clear that the present left-wing provisional Government would remain in office whatever the result of the forthcoming elections.

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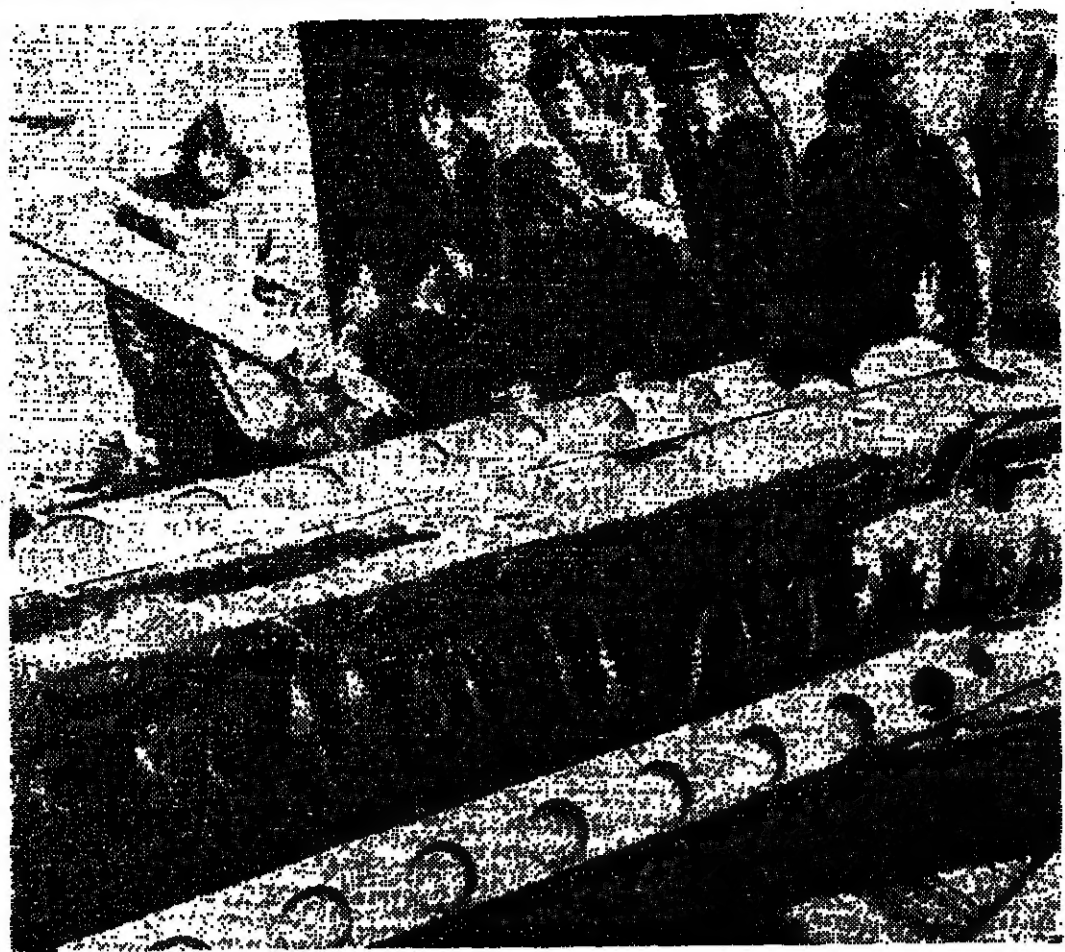
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Members of the crew of the Icelandic gunboat Thor study a Russian underwater detection device which was found washed ashore on Iceland's west coast.

French admit wine ban flouts rules

From David Cross
Brussels, April 8

More than 60 wine growers from the south of France demonstrated today at EEC headquarters in Brussels, where a four-week ban introduced by the French last month in defiance of the Community's free trade rules already has led to an Italian boycott of French cheese and could spread to other food products.

M. Christian Bonnet, the French Minister of Agriculture, conceded for the first time today that the import ban infringed Community rules. In the past his Government has maintained that the restrictions were a private affair, involving only wine traders. He made it clear that the ban would be lifted as soon as the Community found ways of disposing of its 500 million gallon wine surplus.

Today's three-cornered meeting was in preparation for an emergency session of all the Nine's ministers of agriculture in Luxembourg next Tuesday.

The most likely outcome then is an agreement to reduce the Community's wine surplus by distilling some of it into alcohol. The EEC already has decided to treat about 100 million gallons of wine in this way at a cost of some £20m. A further similar operation could well emerge from next week's talks.

Meanwhile, the Commission is still considering legal action against the French Government for a breach of EEC rules before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. But M. Bonnet told journalists today that he doubted whether a legal case would in fact go ahead because of the short time between now and next week's talks.

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Nuclear test critic takes French Navy to court

From Richard Wieg
Paris, April 8

Mr James McTaggart, a Canadian, aged 42, who sailed his yacht as a protest into the French nuclear test zone in the Pacific in 1972 and again in 1973, today opened proceedings against the French Navy in a Paris court.

The case arises from the forcible expulsion of his yacht, Greenpeace 3, from the danger zone around the Mururoa atoll. The three heads of the charges are illegal boarding, physical attack by French sailors on the plaintiff and his crew, and infringement of the right of free navigation on the high seas.

"No one asked Mr McTaggart to go sailing into the danger zone," he said. "I was not aware of the risks, for his act was intended as provocation against the French Navy," Maître Jean Gallot, the Treasury barrister, told the three judges.

Courts agreed that the law was very uncertain outside the 12-mile limit. But he said, from August 1973 the French Defence Minister could base his ban on foreign shipping on a legal French Government decree.

Judge Bertin, who presided over the court, promptly asked: "But is this decree valid in international law?"

Mr McTaggart had not come to the Conseil d'Etat, France's highest administrative court, he could not dispute the decree's applicability in principle. The Conseil d'Etat had, however, ruled that the boarding of foreign vessels on the high seas had to be seen as military acts of a sovereign government which could not be the subject of actions for damages.

An international convention on the high seas dating from 1956 (which he admitted France had not signed), laid upon governments the duty of taking "protective measures" against nuclear pollution risks.

The prosecution asked that Señor Juan Vila Reyes, President of the Magisterio Textil del Norte de España (Matemata), a textile machine company, be found guilty on 417 counts of perjury, four counts of fraud and three of bribery. The maximum sentence would be a total of 1,290 years in jail, of which he would have to serve a maximum of 27.

Lesser penalties were asked for three Matemata executives and four former officials of the state-controlled Industrial Credit Bank.

The scandal has been a political issue since the Matemata hubbub burst during an internal fight in General Franco's Government in 1969. At that time it led to a reshuffle of the Cabinet.

There have been repeated public accusations of involvement in high places. Three former Cabinet ministers indicted for criminal negligence in connexion with the Matemata scandal had their cases quashed by an amnesty which General Franco declared in 1971.

Protest over colour TV for crisis-ridden Italy

From Our Correspondent
Rome, April 8

A lively debate has broken out over whether Italians should be encouraged to buy expensive colour television sets in the midst of the country's worst economic crisis since the Second World War.

Last week the High Council for Telecommunications came out in favour of the West German PAL colour system, and their choice is being submitted to the Government's interministerial committee for economic planning for final decision. It is most unlikely that the committee will go against the High Council's advice.

Although most people appear to favour the PAL system, a chorus of protest has been raised by the timing of the decision. The protests were led by Signor Ugo La Malfa, the Deputy Prime Minister and chairman of the Republican Party, who is an eminent economist. "How can we continue to ask Italians to make all kinds of sacrifices and then encourage them to buy this extremely expensive luxury?" he asked.

Signor La Malfa recalled in an interview with the *Corriere della Sera* that the decision between PAL and the French-Soviet Secam system was postponed two years ago partly to discourage unnecessary spending. "Seeing that the economic situation is even worse than it was two years ago, we cannot change our minds," he said.

He is supported by many left-wing politicians and trade unionists but is opposed by the Liberal Party and representatives of the electronics industry, who get the electronics sector, which has suffered heavily because of the delayed decision, back on its feet.

Signor Franco Mattel, head of the Federation of Italian Industries, maintained that Italy was capable of deciding for themselves what they could or could not afford without being guided from above.

Meanwhile, a spokesman at the Italian broadcasting company RAI indicated that the debate was largely academic, at least for the time being. The company had experimented with the various systems, but it would be some time before it could start colour transmissions and even then they would reach only part of the country, part of the time.

take custody of the latter, which at that time was manned by two Moroccan sailors. They were taken prisoner.

However, the captain of the fishing boat, who was on board the Moroccan patrol launch with his crew apparently advised the Spanish naval craft that they were being held at gunpoint, and the warships did not leave the area, he and his men might be killed.

The destroyer and corvette then returned to Cadiz with the fishing boat and the two Moroccan prisoners. The Spanish Foreign Ministry, in its report, referred to the affair as "lamentable".

Spanish industrialist faces 1,290-year jail sentence

OVERSEAS

General Weyand says Saigon will fight but needs US help

From Fred Emery
Washington, April 8

The United States Army's leading general today tentatively suggested that the South Vietnamese forces would fight—but the country could not survive without further American military aid.

General Frederick Weyand, Army Chief of Staff, who has just returned from a week-long inspection of the Saigon rout for President Ford, today issued his cautious prediction after a long closed session with the Senate armed services committee.

Elsewhere in the Senate a fierce quarrel erupted over an accusation by Senator Henry Jackson, Democratic presidential contender, that President Ford had "only recently found out" about secret United States-Vietnam agreements.

The White House spokesman had no immediate comment on the allegation. At the State Department officials recalled that Dr Kissinger had always denied publicly there were secret agreements, but admitted that certain definitions were in the unpublished record of negotiations.

General Weyand has already reported to the President, apparently with the greater pessimism that privacy can afford. It is assumed his view will form part of a last presidential appeal to Congress on Thursday night for help for Saigon. All the signs are that Congress will have none of it.

General Weyand, while refusing to discuss details today, answered a reporter who asked whether South Vietnam could survive without additional help. "There is no question in my mind but that they will fight," he said. "They have just been through a traumatic experience. They have an opportunity to put it back together again and I think they will. But beyond that, we will have to see."

He added: "We in Congress cannot play our constitutional role in constructing a coherent foreign policy so long as information to which we are entitled is withheld from us." Mr Mansfield agreed that there was such evidence as Mr Jackson suggested to come up he would expect the appropriate committees to investigate any "breaches of faith or trust."

Mr Jackson detected a pattern here of "obsessive" secrecy in Dr Kissinger's diplomacy from the "Selt" treaties to the Soviet immigration debate in the Trade Bill—"secret negotiations, producing secret agreements containing secret commitments."

He continued: "Allies may feel betrayed if promises made to them are not kept, other nations will inevitably doubt whether secret promises made to them are equally valuable, and Americans are left to wonder just how many secret commitments there may be."

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accusation that the Americans were surprised.

President Ford was surprised, however, according to Senator Jackson, to learn of what he called "secret agreements which envision fateful American decisions". Mr Jackson demanded that Mr Ford immediately disclose them.

He was initially rebuffed by Senator Mike Mansfield, majority leader, who said Dr Kissinger had always been asked by congressional leaders, and his answer was always been "No", to any question of secret commitments.

After his speech, Mr Jackson was challenged by a fellow Democrat, Senator Robert Morgan, to share the details with the Senate, but he declined. "I have it on the best of information, the best authority that secret agreements were reached," he said, explaining that disclosure would only be possible by calling officials before a hearing and putting them on oath.

The accusation is a serious one and could inflame the present debate—or if unproven—damage Senator Jackson's candidature for the presidency. He will have been the first to have considered that.

The President has hinted vaguely that Congress has failed to live up to commitments to Saigon where in fact no exists on paper. Mr Jackson noted as much: "The fact is that Congress is being accused of violating commitments and obligations it never heard of."

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Cambodian moves for talks with rebels

Phnom Penh, April 8.—Mr Long Boret, the Cambodian Prime Minister, returned today after a week's absence abroad and disclosed that moves were under way for talks with insurgent forces now surrounding Phnom Penh.

The disclosure came after reports that Mr Saukham Khey, the acting head of state, was consulting leading political figures in the capital on a possible surrender to the forces supporting Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Insurgent forces were attacking on all fronts of Phnom Penh's defence perimeter but government troops were holding the line, military sources said. Khmer Rouge gunners moved closer to the capital yesterday and scored a direct hit on a petrol storage depot at the airport. No one was hurt.

The Cambodian High Command said that 18 107mm rockets had hit the airport today. Four rounds of recoilless rifle fire had hit Phnom Penh itself in the afternoon, wounding four children.

Mr Boret returned after accompanying President Lon Nol to the airport today. Mr Boret is expected to leave soon for the United States.

Mr Boret stopped off for 36 hours in Bangkok on his way back to Phnom Penh. Asked whether he had met any Khmer Rouge representatives and whether he had any hopes for a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian war, he replied: "We are talking about that in Indonesia and Bangkok. I will also talk to them."

General Phan, the Thai Foreign Minister, told reporters in Bangkok that Mr Boret had talked for four hours last night with representatives of the groups opposing Marshal Lon Nol's Government. He thought the atmosphere at the talks had been good.

Sources in Phnom Penh said that most Cambodian field commanders opposed talks leading to a total surrender, which Mr Khey was considering. They wanted instead to improve the Government's military position before starting peace negotiations.

On the war front, military sources said that government troops had yesterday retaken Angkor Wat, 15 miles southwest of the capital, easing pressure in the area.

In the besieged provincial capital of Kompong Speu, 26 miles south-west of Phnom Penh, where the situation was "still critical but stable", the sources said, government troops had launched a counterattack. Supplies continued to be dropped to the defenders of Kompong Speu.

The military sources also reported fighting on Phnom Penh's north and north-western fronts.

The Government defence line there had been pierced several times but government troops managed to prevent the insurgents from breaking through.

In Phnom Penh itself, officials said, the situation of American officials had ended for the time being. About 50 Americans were still left at the United States Embassy, including 12 Marine guards.—Reuters.

no question of any PVO children being repatriated. They had no homes to return to and "almost any place in this country is better than a Vietnamese orphanage".

Gastro-enteritis continues to trouble the newly arrived Vietnamese orphans. Twenty-six of the 300 children have died since arrival. Another four went in on Monday, and yesterday another two were admitted. Doctors do not consider the illness dangerous, but it is highly infectious.

Hanoi, April 8.—The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said today in a communiqué that the American plan to make South Vietnamese adults and children emigrate to the United States was "kidnapping".

The communiqué protested against the presence of American warships and civilian cargo ships carrying Marines in South Vietnamese waters on "the so-called mission of evacuating refugees and protecting American national life". This was a serious sabotage of the Paris peace agreement.

It said the same American aircraft which carried bombs, ammunition and arms to South Vietnam to massacre the people and devastate the villages, was today used to transport kidnapped South Vietnamese children to the United States.—Agence France-Press.

Leading article, page 15

First of orphans find new homes

By Diana Geddes

Mr Clark said his criticism was directed at the Daily Mail flight. "Our concern is with the collection arrangements generally," he added.

The Ockenden Venture, which had 23 handicapped children on the flight from Ockenden Venture homes in or near Saigon, said all their children were "orphaned" but they had no intention of offering any for adoption. The children were in Britain for temporary safe-keeping and medical treatment. They would return them to Vietnam as soon as possible.

Besides the 13 children who have been cleared for adoption in Britain, four others have already gone to adoptive homes in Belgium and 18 will be leaving soon for homes in France and Switzerland.

The rest of the 99 children on the Daily Mail flight all came through the Foster Vietnam Orphans and will be adopted by parents in Britain.

Mr Robert Ash of PVO said all the children came from orphanages, but agreed that many were just abandoned by their mothers on orphanage steps. It was possible, therefore, that they had one or more surviving parents.

"But we have no trace of the parents. It would be very unlikely that we could find ourselves in a 'clue of lead' situation," Mr Ash said there was

Senator's fears for joint space mission

Washington, April 8.—A United States senator today asked the Central Intelligence Agency to determine the safety of Soviet manned space equipment. He said he feared the planned July Apollo-Soyuz space link-up may be dangerous for American astronauts.

Senator William Proxmire, chairman of a Senate appropriations subcommittee on "space", said the Soviet Union's aborted spaceflight mission last Saturday "reinforces my deep concern that the upcoming joint Apollo-Soyuz experiment may be dangerous to American astronauts."

In a speech prepared for delivery to the Senate the Wisconsin Democrat asked the CIA to report to his subcommittee next month on the safety of Soviet space technology.

According to Tass, the Soyuz spacecraft had to be blasted clear of its booster rocket on Saturday when the third stage veered off course. The two cosmonauts on board made a safe emergency landing among the mountains of western Siberia.

Senator Proxmire said he disagreed with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which operates the United States space programme. He says NASA insists that the July mission, when Soviet and American space flyers are due to rendezvous in space, will be as safe as any in the Apollo programme.

"NASA says the Soviet failures, which have cost four lives, have been in the return phase of the mission and thus will not affect the Apollo-Soyuz programme," Senator Proxmire said. He claimed failures had occurred at all stages of the mission and five Soyuz flights

had suffered some form of failure since 1967.—Reuters

Moscow, April 8.—Soviet space officials admitted to their American counterparts today that they used an old model rocket for the abortive Soyuz flight last weekend.

NASA officials here for the run-up to the dual mission said the Russians had reported the booster was an early version of a rocket that they will use in July. It was "less diligently" checked out than the system that will be used for the rendezvous in space.

The Russians assured the United States yesterday that the failure of the week's mission would not affect the July eight-day mission as expected to arrive in the Soviet Union next week for a tour of the Soviet launch centre and to see the controversial booster rocket.—Reuters and AP.

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OVERSEAS

South Africa promises to withdraw its forces by end of May

Durban, April 8.—South Africa has promised to withdraw its security forces from Rhodesia by the end of next month, Mr. Verwoerd, the Prime Minister, said today.

He said: "We want South African security forces withdrawn. We have made this demand. Fortunately the Rhodesian African National Council have themselves had an opportunity to demand the withdrawal of these forces and have been told that they are being withdrawn."

Prime Minister Vorster (of South Africa) has now assured that South African security forces will be withdrawn by the end of May, 1975.

Earlier Mr. Machel, President-designate of Mozambique, supported efforts to negotiate settlements on Rhodesia and Namibia (South-West Africa) but rejected relations with South Africa itself.

He was one of several leaders of southern Africa's nationalist movements to outline separate policies towards South Africa which will enable foreign ministers of the Organization of African Unity to prepare a new approach.

President Machel's speech supported the joint approach by Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana on Rhodesia which led to negotiations between the South African and the African National Council.

In contrast, South Africa's banned and exiled nationalist movement, the African National Congress, called for simultaneous liberation wars in Namibia, Rhodesia and South Africa itself. Mr. Oliver Tambo, the acting president, said the common enemy in southern Africa must be fought simultaneously.

The contrasting stands of Pretoria and the South African Nationalists, pinpointed differences between OAU member states on what to do about the new situation in southern Africa after the appearance later this year of African majority governments in Angola and Mozambique.

The so-called moderates, led by Tanzania and Zambia, with backing from Mozambique, Sudan and Ethiopia, urge separation of what they call the colonial problem of Namibia and Rhodesia and the situation inside South Africa itself.

A majority of governments are agreed that South Africa must be isolated and denied relations with the rest of Africa.—Reuter.

Nairobi, April 8.—A spokesman for Africa's Protestant churches today urged independent black nations to reject a South African peace campaign aimed at blurring the armed struggle against apartheid.

Canon Burgess Carr said, however, that he doubted whether Africa could step up the recent level of fighting in South-West Africa and Rhodesia.—AP.

Zambia bans African Rhodesian groups

Lusaka, April 8.—Zambia has outlawed three Rhodesian African Nationalist liberation movements which have used it as a base.

The Government Gazette says that Mr. Aaron Milner, the Interior Minister, had signed a decree banning the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu), the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu) and the Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe (Froliz).

It added that they were being used for purposes "prejudicial to the maintenance of peace, order and good government."

The banning of the three movements does not affect the African National Council (ANC), the umbrella organization under which they merged last December.

With the merger, the three organizations, theoretically ceased to exist, although some dissident Zanu members disagreed with the merger.

After the arrest of its president, the Rev Ndabengwe Sibhole, by the Rhodesian Government early last month, Zanu again began issuing its own official statements. Mr. Sibhole has since been released.

The Gazette said the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, the Hare Krishna sect, had been declared unlawful and that its leaders had been deported.—Reuter.



Beverly Sills, the soprano, making her debut at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, after 20 years' feuding with the management.

Israelis look back in anger at holocaust

From Eric Marsden
Jerusalem, April 8

Thirty years after the collapse of Nazi Germany, Israelis today observed Holocaust Day with ceremonies marked by warnings that only the nation's continued strength and unity could prevent further mass persecution and murder of Jews.

The feeling that Israel's survival is at stake is greater than at any time since the state was founded.

Throughout the troubles of recent years, Israel's people have had one firm rock—the support of the United States. Now even that seems to be shaky. The fears may be exaggerated but the suddenness of the American shift away from Israel has come as a profound shock.

Embarrassing squabbles are breaking out as the ineptness continues over the collapse of Dr. Kissinger's mission. Reclamations are taking a strange turn, with Israel seeking to please President Ford while maintaining bitterness towards the Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger, according to Washington correspondents.

Mr. Rabin, Israel's Prime Minister, and Mr. Allon, the Foreign Minister, are venting their frustration in briefings which are leaked in detail. He accuses Israel's leaders of being persuaded by him to undertake his shuttle mission by leading him to believe they would make more concessions to gain Egypt's agreement.

According to one report, Dr. Kissinger has made it known that he does not want Mr. Allon to represent Israel if further talks are held as he believes the Foreign Minister's opinions carry little weight in Jerusalem and are misleading. Such pronouncements, it made by Dr. Kissinger, can hardly be meant to be taken seriously.

His latest target, it is reported, is Mr. Simha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador in Washington, who has also come in for heavy criticism at home. The Foreign Ministry has denied allegations that Mr. Dinitz urged American Jewish organizations to send "messages of gratitude" to Dr. Kissinger after his mission collapsed, but further reports have been published quoting a prominent Zionist leader as confirming them.

As the rift between the two countries widens, Jewish leaders from the United States are trying to bridge it. Mr. Max Fisher, a leading fund-raiser for Israel and a friend of President Ford was in Jerusalem at the weekend. He is understood to be living to see Mr. Ford.

The United States appears to be seeking second thoughts by Israel over a withdrawal from the Sinai passes and the Abu Rodeis oilfields, which American leaders see as the only way to keep President Sadat on his "moderate" course.

This is where the basic misunderstanding lies. The Israelis refuse to accept Mr. Sadat as a moderate and believe the Western world is showing dangerous gullibility over Arab intentions.

Kuwait gives £165m to Arabs facing Israel

Kuwait, April 8.—The National Assembly today approved a bill granting \$15m (£17.3m) in aid to seven Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Government sources said the 10% share of £165m went to those actively engaged in confronting Israel. There was \$170m each for Egypt and Syria, \$71m for Jordan and \$5m for the PLO.

North and South Yemen each got an allocation of \$3m; and \$2.5m each was earmarked for Somalia and Mauritania.

The Assembly passed another bill granting \$5m for the victims of recent earthquakes.—UPI.

Sudan leader in Iraq for talks

Bahad, April 8.—President Nimeiry of Sudan arrived in Baghdad today for an official five-day visit. He said on arrival that his talks with Iraqi leaders would be aimed at developing relations to serve the Arab nation.

President Nimeiry is due to have talks with President Bakr of Iraq. Mr. Bakr, cabinet ministers and senior officials were at the airport.

The two leaders are also expected to discuss a \$100m joint development programme and a contract for Iraqi oil to be supplied in Sudan.

African leader accuses church students

From Our Own Correspondent
Cape Town, April 8

The Federal Theological Seminary which recently had its buildings at Alice in the Cape Province appropriated by the South African Government, has been attacked by a Bantustan leader as a threat to security.

The seminary has been rehoused in the Transkei, one of the republic's semi-autonomous African enclaves. Chief Kaiser Matanzima, the Transkei's Chief Minister, claimed today that the students at the seminary were "bent on eliminating chieftainship" and had distributed a document which was intended to incite the people of the Transkei to revolution.

Chief Matanzima, of right-wing leanings and one the African leaders in the republic who is cooperative with the white Government, said the document was distributed by the students at a so-called church meeting.

Addressing the Transkei Legislative Assembly, he asked whether the seminary wanted to bring about revolutionary authority. The document was issued, he said, by the South African Student Organisation and the Black People's Convention which were "leftist organisations."

Black politician accused of recruiting guerrillas

From Our Correspondent
Salisbury, April 8

Mr Percy Mkudu, a former black leader of the Opposition in the Rhodesian Parliament, has appeared in court on a charge of recruiting people for guerrilla training.

It was said in the Umtali magistrates' court that sometime in February or March Mr Mkudu took five or six recruits from Umtali to Inyangwe in the eastern highlands of Rhodesia to help them cross the border into Mozambique for training.

Mr Mkudu appeared with Mr Morris Nyagumbo, both being charged under the Law and Order Maintenance Act. Mr Mkudu was allowed bail and had to surrender his travel documents. He will appear in court again on April 21.

He was elected to Parliament in 1962 for the old United Federal Party and served for a time as leader of the moderate black Opposition. He was also an executive member of the Liberal Centre Party.

More than 30 black school boys are reported to have left a mission near Umtali and crossed into Mozambique to join Frelimo. The pupils, aged between 17 and 20, left after school sports day on March 22. Representations have been made to the authorities in Mozambique for the return of the boys, but with no success a police official said.

The Hartzell secondary school from which the boys fled is run by the United Methodist Church of which the African National Council's president, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, is the Rhodesian head.

Our Cape Town Correspondent writes: Dr. Hilgard Miller, South Africa's Foreign Minister, denied suggestions that South Africa has interfered in two internal affairs of Rhodesia.

After Dr. Miller's brief visit to Rhodesia which was followed last week by the release of Mr Sibhole, Mr. Denis Fawcett Phillips, a Rhodesian Member of Parliament, said South Africa would no longer be able to deny that it was interfering in Rhodesia's affairs.

Dr. Miller has issued a statement "taking" the strongest exception to the suggestion of interference.

During his talks with Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, he had put the views of the South African Government and exchanged views with him as had been done regularly in the past. There was no departure from established practice.

Turkey denies Greek airspace charges

From Our Correspondent
Ankara, April 8

Turkish authorities today vehemently denied accusations that Turkish aircraft had violated Greek airspace, in what appeared to be another complicated point of conflict in the tense relations between the two countries.

Mr Ferit Melen, the Defence Minister, said: "It is clear that Greece, which has armed the Aegean islands despite the absolutely clear stipulations to the contrary of international agreements, is coming forth with such accusations with the sole aim of preventing Turkish planes from flying over the Aegean."

Tearing the Aegean an "open sea," Mr Melen said that Turkey would continue to make use of the rights granted it by international agreements.

He added that "the Greek accusations made on March 20 and 27 and 28 April 75 were meticulously investigated and it was determined beyond the slightest doubt that there had been no instances of violation."

The Foreign Ministry announced that the Greek Embassy in Ankara had been formally notified on Monday that Athens' accusations were unfounded.

An official announcement from the Ministry spokesman said that Turkey had also called the attention of Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, to the arms build up on the Aegean islands.

This new element of tension between Turkey and Greece arises from the international "high information" region (FIR) line between the two countries. The Aegean area is under Greek control and the dividing line passes between Turkey and the Dodecanese islands, some of which are only a few miles off the Anatolian mainland.

Turkey had issued a note during the military operations in Cyprus last July, requiring all aircraft coming across the Aegean to notify Turkish authorities before reaching the FIR limit.

This move, aimed at giving Turkey advance warning of possible air attacks from Greece, is still in effect. This has since been declared off-limits to all international flights by Athens, forcing aircraft to make big detours across the Mediterranean or over Bulgaria.

Only Turkish and Greek military aircraft have been flying in this area between the Turkish warning limit and the FIR line. Greece considers Turkish flights there as air space violations, while Turkey claims its aircraft are flying in international air space.

Athens, April 8.—A Greek Government spokesman tonight denied Turkish allegations that Greece has moved troops and arms into the Dodecanese islands, including Rhodes, in contravention of international conventions.—Reuter.

In brief

Universities shut after riots

Seoul, April 8.—Four Seoul universities were closed today after President Park said Government troops into the Korea University to put down worsening and Government student riots.

Mr Kim Sung-jin, the presidential spokesman, said that the demonstrations had destroyed the academic atmosphere and order at the universities and threatened to "impair national order."

Drugs class offer

New York, April 8.—Mrs Linda McCartney, wife of Mr Paul McCartney, the former Beatle, who has decided not to fight a charge of possessing marijuana brought against her, says she is ready to attend a class on the evils of drug abuse in expiation.

Police chief survives

Buenos Aires, April 8.—Señor Luis Margarida, the Argentine police chief, whose predecessor was killed by a guerrilla bomb five months ago, has survived two assassination attempts in the past 12 hours.

Yacht taken in tow

Chanea, Crete, April 8.—The Greek cargo ship Nauka today took the British yacht Lassadwy in tow after it was found sinking 100 miles west of Crete. The three crew are missing.

'End hanging' vote

Melbourne, April 8.—The state Parliament of Victoria voted 36 to 30 today to abolish hanging. The abolition Bill still has to pass the upper House before it can be implemented.

Under British eyes

Vienna, April 8.—Mr Roy Mason, Britain's Secretary of State for Defence who is visiting Romania, today watched a tactical exercise by a military unit.

Soviet oil find

Moscow, April 8.—Soviet geologists have discovered oil deposits in Tyumen, western Siberia which are expected to yield more than 1,000 tons a day.

Cyprus talks resume

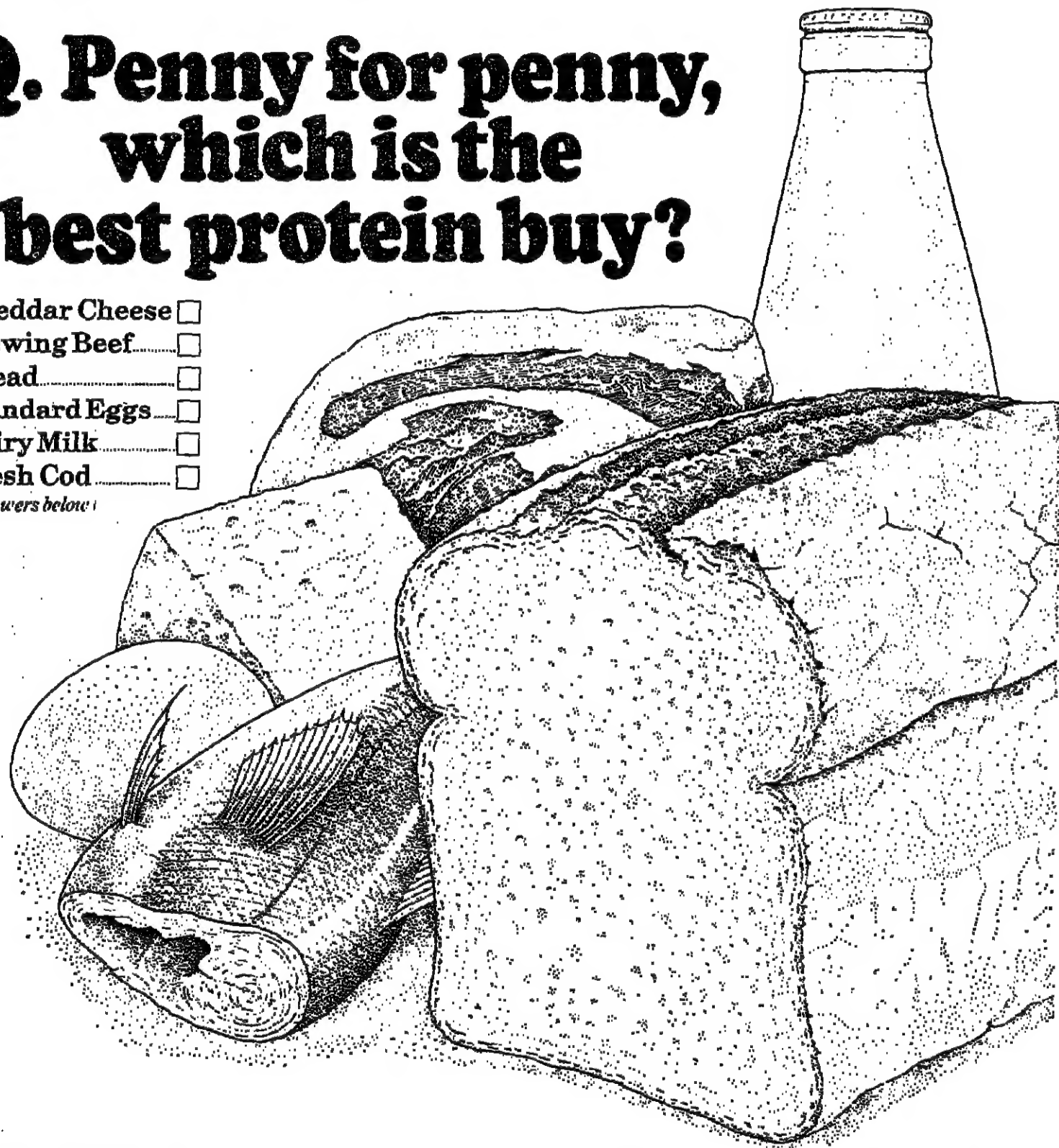
New York, April 8.—Greek and Turkish Cypriot representatives have agreed to resume talks on the island's political future in Vienna on April 28.

A shoppers' value-for-money quiz to test your domestic expertise

Q. Penny for penny, which is the best protein buy?

- Cheddar Cheese ☐
- Stewing Beef ☐
- Bread ☐
- Standard Eggs ☐
- Dairy Milk ☐
- Fresh Cod ☐

(Answers below)



- 6th Cod
- 5th Beef
- 4th Eggs
- 3rd Milk
- 2nd Cheese
- 1st Bread

Answers:

Yes, your 28 oz. loaf of bread is still the best protein buy on your shopping list. Does this surprise you? Perhaps you never actually considered bread as a very important source of protein in a balanced diet?

Protein, of course, is your prime body builder. But bread contributes other essentials, too. Like Calcium, for stronger bones. And Iron, vital to the blood stream. And the B Vitamins, essential for vitality.

To quote the National Food Survey (1972), bread's contribution to the average daily diet amounts to: Protein, 17%; Calcium, 13.4%; Iron, 17.7%; Niacin, 13.7%; Thiamine (Vitamin B1), 22.1%; Energy value, 14.4%.

And in comparative terms, bread and flour supply your daily diet with more thiamine and energy than any other food; only meat is higher as a source of protein, iron and niacin; only milk as a source of calcium.

How bread compares with other foods nutritionally

The table below illustrates in detail bread's comparative nutritional values when placed—for the same amount of money spent—against other typical food items on your shopping list.

All bread is good for you

But it's surprising how many people you meet who are almost entirely ignorant of these plain facts. To them, bread is something to be taken for granted.

And the white loaf (which represents over 80% of the bread bought in Britain), hardly ever gets a good word said for it. Yet, though certain minerals and vitamins have to be reduced in the milling of wheat into white flour, they're added to the flour after milling—as a legal requirement, in fact—to safeguard the nutrient level of your bread. (Brown and wholemeal, of course, are extremely good nutritionally, and may be chosen by people requiring extra roughage).

Whichever bread you choose, you're still getting one of the best protein and nutritional bargains on the market. Enjoy your loaf!

COMPARATIVE NUTRITIONAL VALUES						
16p will buy the following:	Protein (grams)	Calories	Calcium (mg.)	Iron (mg.)	Niacin (mg.)	Thiamine (mg.)
28 oz. white bread (wrapped and sliced)	61.6	1932	728.0	14.3	13.5	1.4
6.4 oz. cheddar cheese	46.1	768	1472.0	1.0	0.2	0.1
2.7 pints milk	42.3	893	1598.0	0.9	1.2	0.5
5.5 standard eggs	37.4	506	176.0	7.9	0.3	0.3
4 lb. 10 oz. old potatoes	29.4	1693	88.3	10.3	14.7	1.5
5.2 oz. stewing beef	28.6	260	7.8	6.3	7.2	0.1
5.1 oz. fresh cod	26.0	117	21.4	0.7	4.0	0.1
9.8 oz. butter	1.0	2215	39.2	0.5	trace	trace

Prices based on Department of Prices and Consumer Protection information, and local enquiries, March 1975.

Bread: still the best food value in Britain

ISSUED BY THE FLOUR ADVISORY BUREAU.

Banknote evidence assists defence of Mr Connally

From Patrick Bregan
Washington, April 8

The defence produced \$10,000 in banknotes at Mr John Connally's trial this morning and were able to show that some at least of them could not possibly have been given, to him as a babe when he was Secretary of the Treasury in 1971. They fire the signature of his successor, Mr George Shultz.

The chief defence counsel, Mr Edward Bennett Williams, is continuing his cross-examination of the prosecution's star witness, Mr Jack Jacobsen. It is alleged that Mr Jacobsen, a lawyer for a milk co-operative, made two payments of \$5,000 to Mr Connally in recognition

of his role in raising the support-price of milk.

The Watergate special prosecutors heard about the money when it was alleged that Mr Connally and Mr Jacobsen then conspired to put \$10,000 into a safe deposit box and to claim that Mr Connally had never accepted the money.

The fact that some of the bills must have been put there later, obviously demolished the claim that the money had slept peacefully for three years in a box in Austin, Texas.

The defence contends that Mr Jacobsen embezzled the money which the milk co-operative gave him for Mr Connally when the latter refused to accept it.

PARLIAMENT, April 8, 1975

All steps to be taken to get comprehensive education everywhere

House of Commons

MR GUY BARNETT (Greenwich, Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science how many local authorities had submitted plans to him in response to circular 4/74 issued by the Department; and how many had refused to do so.

MR ARMSTRONG (Under Secretary, Durham, North West, Lab): Of 96 local education authorities in England, 86 have delivered a substantive reply and a further 10 are in interim ones. No authority has refused to respond.

MR BARNETT—Some authorities have made statements that they are not going to comply. There is considerable doubt about some authorities who have said they will, as to the precise time they will do it. The Minister has a good precedent in the Education Bill introduced by the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs Margaret Thatcher) to coerce reluctant authorities. (Labour cheers.)

MR ARMSTRONG—I am aware of the situation. We are making a close analysis of all responses from the authorities.

The Government are determined to have genuine comprehensive re-organisation in all parts of the country. We will not stand aside and allow local authorities to prejudice the best educational interests of children by perpetuating a wasteful and unfair system of selecting and rejecting children.

This Government will take all necessary steps to ensure that a national policy as agreed by the House. (Labour cheers.)

MR LANE (Cambridge, C)—Will the Minister say whether the Government intend to introduce compulsory legislation in the near future? (Conservative cheers.) The Government should process gently to allow for the

evolution and greater availability of resources, rather than trying to force the pace in the way the Minister has indicated, with all the bitterness and distraction that would be involved. (Renewed Conservative cheers.)

MR ARMSTRONG—This controversy has been going on for a long time. When I have gone around the country in areas where they are in genuine difficulty about going comprehensive, they are grateful that the Government have indicated firmly that we are going to implement national policy.

Later, Mr BUCHAN (West Renfrewshire, Lab) said the Prime Minister had promised an open debate on the subject of comprehensive schools. He said that the Government were not going to allow a vote on the subject without a full and proper debate. (Labour cheers.)

SIR GEORGE SINCLAIR (Dorset, C)—How can the massive financial resources be made available to provide comprehensive schools of a viable size out of schools that are on average about 500 or 600, a size we are told by the pundits of comprehensive education to be viable?

MR ARMSTRONG—We are not prepared to tolerate the situation a day longer than is necessary when the interests of children are at stake. We are going to select and reject children.

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Proud that Cabinet is more representative of two views on EEC

During questions to the Prime Minister.

MR ASHTON (Bassetlaw, Lab) asked him to remember that at the last Labour Party conference a resolution was passed calling for equal allocation of opportunity for everyone to take part in the great debate on the Common Market. He said that the Prime Minister would not be allowed to speak in the debate taking place in the House.

MR HAROLD WILSON (Huyton, Lab)—I have not noticed any indication that the Prime Minister will not only of members of the Parliamentary Labour Party but of the party in the country to take part fully in the debate which will take place on the referendum. On the question of ministers speaking in the House, this is an appropriate decision taken by the Cabinet.

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MR ARNOLD (Bassetlaw, Lab) asked the Prime Minister to accept that since the future credibility of the United Kingdom in international negotiations depended on their remaining in the EEC, it was his duty to make a ministerial broadcast.

MR WILSON—We are having a three-day debate. We must to some extent have some feeling for the problems of the broadcasting authorities. (Conservative laughter.) They are enjoined, and have agreed, to maintain balance. Broadcasts by the three party leaders might appear to be rather on one side of the debate.

Since my statement on March 18, I have not noticed any indication that the Prime Minister will not only of members of the Parliamentary Labour Party but of the party in the country to take part fully in the debate which will take place on the referendum. On the question of ministers speaking in the House, this is an appropriate decision taken by the Cabinet.

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do not get with editorial bias in the press or with scurrilous advertisements like that comparing those of us who wish to remain with the late Victorian Quilting.

MR WILSON—I agree entirely with that, including what Mr Wilson said about the late Victorian Quilting. There was one on the other side also last week which was wholly improper.

The broadcasting authorities are generally trying to maintain the balance between the pro- and anti-Market side. It is being and will be considered by the standing committee of all parties and by the broadcasting authorities. They are enjoined, and have agreed, to maintain balance. Broadcasts by the three party leaders might appear to be rather on one side of the debate.

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(Moray and Nairn, Scot Nat)—Will Mr Wilson refrain from taking umbrage if I suggest to him that he might ask Mr William Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, to make a ministerial broadcast in Scotland as his anti-Market views will be more in tune with Scottish views? (Protests.)

MR WILSON—I never take umbrage at anything. Mr Wilson said that he was not a Minister. To some extent they are separate broadcasting authorities in Scotland and they will try to preserve the balance between pro- and anti-Market views and give fair coverage to both.

MR JOHNSON SMITH (East Grinstead, C)—He says he will not make a broadcast but will the Prime Minister take the opportunity to make a broadcast on the subject of the referendum? (Conservative laughter.)

MR WILSON—I did not say I would not make a ministerial broadcast, but I have no present plans to do so. The broadcasting authorities have to maintain a fair balance and if, thereby, the discretion of the broadcasting authorities is used, there is a possibility of a broadcast, I would consider it.

The House will debate the Referendum Bill on Thursday. We have declared the views of the Government.

MR SPRIGGS (St Helens, Lab)—Many MPs behind him would prefer to see the Prime Minister make a statement based on their own views and not on those of the House of Commons. (Labour cheers.)

MR WILSON—I would always prefer to have Mr Spriggs behind me, rather than some of the people I have to look at. He is my parliamentary neighbour and I spoke for him when he was a candidate in the 1950 general election.

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This unprecedented agreement to differ in an unprecedented situation, namely the referendum, is unlimited for all Ministers in the campaign in the country. It was suggested by any of us that this would be the position in the debate here.

MRS MARGARET THATCHER, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Finchley, C)—On this issue, Mr Wilson has some friends in front of him, if not behind him. As his Minister, I am sure he will not be having it both ways, would it not be better for him and for everyone else if he resigned, pending the result. (Conservative cheers.)

MR WILSON—Those last few words remind me of the obligation to refer to Mrs Thatcher as "my right honourable friend" (Laughter). I do not accept that at all. This is a Conservative laughter. It is a situation where Mrs Thatcher's party is divided, as is ours and as is the country.

I am proud of the fact that we have a representative of the two views on this rather rather crowded-dominated cabinet which preceded our debate. That was the country taken in without the promised full-hearted consent. We have never heard whether she dissociates herself from that side.

If the country votes in accordance with the recommendation of the Government, the position of the Government will be strengthened. There has been every doubt since 1971 when the Government of which we are a part was in power, that the Government would not be able to do so.

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Britain in EEC offers best chance of maximum peace and security

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Finchley, C), resuming the debate on the EEC.

White Paper, said yesterday the Prime Minister had opened the debate on the subject of the EEC. She said that the Government were not going to allow a vote on the subject without a full and proper debate. (Labour cheers.)

On each of the three previous occasions the Prime Minister of Great Britain had opened the debate on the subject of the EEC. She said that the Government were not going to allow a vote on the subject without a full and proper debate. (Labour cheers.)

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
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MR BOOLEY

Gilts easier

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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Is this the end of the couch?

1. *Pharmaceutical industry*—The pharmaceutical industry is the largest of the three industries, with sales of \$10.5 billion in 1990. It is the only industry in the sample that has a significant number of firms with sales exceeding \$1 billion. The industry is characterized by a high degree of concentration, with the top 10 firms accounting for 40% of sales. The industry is also characterized by a high degree of innovation, with a large number of new drugs being developed each year.

“The loss of this school of languages
will not cause the nation to
collapse . . . yet perhaps it would be a good
idea if it were not forgotten . . .”

"Yes at Eastern, the school was abruptly closed," Mr. Lindsay explains the abruptness by saying that he feared that, if he announced his decision in advance, "there might have been a 'sit-in' at the premises by a group of teachers," he explains the closure itself by saying that a group among the staff, some

clusion that the teacher-training unit would have to be closed; it was making a loss, and that, combined with the effects of the worsening economic climate and the problems that seemed already to be in the irregular, and therefore uneconomic, pattern of their intake (their busiest time is too summer, for instance, and they have many more mornings suddenly than afternoon), made the decision to close a matter of the School and left off part of the buildings. He communicated the decision to the head of the teacher-training department (in June 1974) who, in writing, said that the decision newly taken on must be told that her appointment was a strictly limited one and would end in November 1974, when the department closed. In September, Mr Lindsay gave fortnightly talks to the class of teacher-training; there is a conflict of evidence between them, Mr Lindsay saying that he had given no promise of continued employment unless there was a vacancy on the existing staff and the teacher-trainer, insisting that he had been given an unconditional guarantee. But in any case this was lost sight of in the cry of victimization" (the man was a union candidate, and the strike was raised. And I do mean insanity: Mr Lindsay's offer to discuss the dispute with the union, in accordance with agreed procedure, was ignored, as was his wish to meet the other teaching staff on the strike; this was known about the situation was that a broadening company was on the phone asking him for a comment about the strike. (When he asked the organizers why they had not even told him that they were on strike, they said that they had not had time—but they had had time to print leaflets and make banners, which

were immediately on show outside the building; the strike had clearly been prepared in advance. The spokesman, who was the shop steward—that is, the man asked me to call him—wrote down the following, but surely it is still an odd term to find in a school?—of the union at the School, says that he is not telling Mr Lindsay what is "indefensible" and that they are not going to sign it.

There was the usual scene at the premises, with Mr and Mrs Lindsay and the non-striking staff having to run a gauntlet of shouts and accusations, and the strikers refused to suspend their action to enable officials of the union's head office to discuss the situation with Mr Lindsay; the strikers made it clear that they would accept no compromise; and every detail of the agreement, which amounted to a complete acceptance of the strikers' demands, had to be settled before the School could reopen.

When it did, Mr Lindsay went to the staff-room, shook hands with all the strikers, and expressed his willingness to accept the result. But from then on, he says that the School deteriorated under the "salami tactics" of a group clearly determined to impose their will on the staff.

This is no metaphor, for Mr Lindsay says he has been told to his face, during the struggle, that he is "only" the "legal owner" of St Giles' (He is), and always has been, also a principal teacher.

No issue was too small or too manifestly groundless, to be used. For instance, the School's union members declared that the assistant in the teacher-training department had been taken on for a specified, limited time, the length of her appointment being made clear

to her in advance in writing (and all this at the very proper insistence of the head of teacher-training, who became the focus of the strike), ought to be a precedent. But she was appointed in accordance with the School's long-standing custom (because of the need for extra, temporary, staff during the summer rush) for even such a precedent as having herself asked and agreed to such appointments, began, with the backing of the union, "to demand to be kept on indefinitely when their appointments ended." The first thing that happened was that the management met with the militant industrial action was used: in one issue of the union news-letter, for instance, there was an announcement that the A.R.E.L. Schools had a meeting with the Secretary of the Association of Recognized English Language Schools, and the statement went on:

...an arrangement was arranged for a meeting of the A.R.E.L. Schools with by acting as a united body in negotiations with MATSA or are they prepared for MATSA to pick them off one by one. The teachers' protestations we are experiencing at the moment leads (sic) us to think that there is a need for us to adopt a more militant approach as it would appear that a gentlemanly approach is being associated. If nothing positive has happened by ... 15th July, then THE GLOVES ARE OFF.

It is worth emphasizing that, before May of last year when the capitalist bazaar there had been no industrial trouble of any kind at St. Giles in all its 20 years, and the School's rates of pay and hours of work were among the best in the country. Yet even then Lindesay offered new and higher salary scale, and was told by teachers he had approached with it that they

considered it generous he was told that negotiating committees had been formed (it was largely composed of the militants), and they rejected the new scale unless it included a "threshold" agreement for an extra 11 per cent for every 1 per cent increase in the cost of living. This was even beyond what MATS was demanding, as was the MATSA officials who eventually, called in by Mr. Lindsay, had to persuade the School's union to accept a compromise figure.

Things got steadily worse. Mr. Lindsay, and the Head of the Foreign Languages Department, found that it is impossible to dismiss staff, no matter how full the notice, without incurring their wrath, how unuseful their work, as the union would not allow it. After one dispute involving a part-time teacher who had been told (well in advance) that she could no longer be guaranteed 40 hours to teach a week, such pressure was brought to bear on the Head of Foreign Languages that she could not stand any more of it, and submitted her resignation. The staff could not be employed for all staff was rejected virtually *in toto*, even including such clauses as "The teacher undertakes to be bound by the regulations from time to time" or "to be faithful and to the best of his/her ability carry out the duties assigned to him/her". Even the management's right to have some say (in consultation with the staff of course) in the selection of staff was regarded as particularly important in so "seasonal" a profession—was declared unacceptable.

An interesting example of the kind of demands being made is provided by a draft submitted as the basis of a code of procedure for employees of the school. It was clearly a disciplinary action because of failure to meet the standards prescribed by the school rules with regard to conduct, attendance and job attendance". It laid down a series of procedures so elaborate and prolonged that it would have been virtually impossible under them for any employee to be dismissed for any cause, however outrageous the behaviour. As:

... the normal action in the firm

instance of a failure to meet agreed standards is an informal verbal warning. . . . a similar failure to meet agreed standards will justify a first formal written warning. . . . a second failure to meet agreed standards will justify a second formal written warning from the head of department. . . . who shall record in writing a brief account of the incident and of the action to which the employee will be liable for a subsequent failure to observe standards. . . . the staff representative will, if the employee wishes, be present when a first formal written warning is given. . . . a further occurrence of a similar failure to meet agreed standards will justify a second formal written warning from the head of department. . . . who shall record in writing a detailed account of the incident and inform the employee concerned that recurrence may lead to dismissal with notice. . . . the staff representative will, if the employee wishes, be present when a second formal written warning is given. . . . a further occurrence of a similar failure to meet agreed standards will justify an instant dismissal. . . . the employee concerned will be suspended without prejudice pending a decision by the faculty. . . . the faculty may recommend (a) case not proven, (b) suspension (1-5 days without pay) or (c) a final formal written warning. . . .

And the draft bluntly concludes: "Nothing in this agreement prejudices the right of an employee to take a case of 'unfair dismissal' to the Industrial Tribunal." (which prompts the reflection that an employer who had to go through a similar process to dismiss an employee unfairly, or indeed (as all would be a bloody genius).

The breaking-point came when Mr. Lindsay finally announced the decision he had first raised with the staff eight months before: the reduction of the size of part of the premises. This meant that five temporary (or "supply") teachers, all on specified short-term contracts, would leave the School at Easter. At this, Mr. Lindsay says he was "stunned". He would have "preferred" to reduce the school in size. (This, too, is denied.) He then finally decided that he had no alternative but to close the School down, or to see it turned into something that was nothing like the school it had been, which he had founded it and for which he had laboured for 20 years.

Mr. Lindsay has taken pains to see that as many students as possible are accommodated in

similar schools, and will, of course, be ready to give references and recommendations, as appropriate, for the staff. There being a number of reputable schools seeking further students and qualified and acceptable staff, it is unlikely that there will be any serious hardship resulting from the closure. But it represents the decision of the man who I have known Mr Lindsay—normally a most equable man—for most of my life, and was appalled at the haggard appearance he presented when I met him towards the end of the story) of something that was bound to be a disaster and rightly cherished by those who had created it and built it up. I do not suppose, and do not think that Mr Lindsay does, that anyone set out to destroy the St Giles School deliberately or for the sake of a decision to use their own. There was a genuine belief that Mr Lindsay was "only the legal owner". He thinks it possible, too, that some may have had the idea of turning it into a workers' co-operative, but they would use their experience at it to start a school of their own elsewhere. (Opening, they say, next week.) No doubt some people believe that the kind of tactics employed were justified that employers should have no rights against employees, but the latter should have total rights against the former, that the militant workers have nothing to reproach themselves for.

The loss of the St Giles School of Languages will not cause the nation to collapse in economic ruin or lead to an outbreak of cannibalism in Oxford Street. Mr and Mrs Lindsay and their children will not starve, and soon the entire episode will be forgotten. And perhaps it would be a good idea if it were not forgotten, but recognized as a microcosm, and a portent, of something far larger than any of the issues directly involved. At any rate, that is how I would like to see it. And I think that others might do well to ponder on its implications. And that is my excuse for demanding today so great a ration of this paper's space, and of my readers' time.

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canvass of the electorate, knock up voters on polling date, or send cars around housing estates reminding people to be sure to vote. The absence of a constituency count of the vote means that MPs and their constituents have no direct incentive to show a high turnout in the referendum ballot. Whatever decision the special Labour Party Conference takes on April 26, the party will remain badly divided on the referendum issue, and the debilitated constituency organization will be further crippled by this split. An MP may encourage his supporters to do little, rather than canvass on opposite sides of the issue during the referendum campaign. The Liberals will have little to contribute, being exhausted from the expense of two elections in 1974. Only in Scotland might there be a major party canvass: the SNP has committed to campaign against membership, because it is a "British" membership.

The Conservatives will have to decide whether to commit their organizational resources, the most substantial of the party's, to a referendum campaign. To do this would not only encourage turnout but also call attention to divisions within the ranks of their labour opponents.

It is hard to see the Liberals trying to restrict appearances on television by

his senior ministers, he will deflate media coverage in the campaign, by depriving it of statements from names who are sure to make news. This, in turn, will depress turnout and reduce the significance of the referendum results.

To encourage ministers to spend less time in the public domain, divisions within the Cabinet on the major issues facing the country. Headlines about Labour's split would probably confuse some Labour voters, and make them stay at home.

The pro and anti-market pressure groups operate under two handicaps. First of all, voters have no loyalty to these organisations.

To organize a doorstep campaign to get people out to vote is extremely difficult for any ad hoc pressure group without a nationwide mass membership organisation. The trade unions are best placed to assist the anti cause—if they can get shop stewards to circularize men at the workbenches with anti-market leaflets.

If the Government sticks to its proposal for a London cut, all the ballots in the United Kingdom, the outcome will be clear-cut in the formal sense that it can only express the verdict of the whole British people. Since the Union is not a part of the Union, or all out of the Community, there is a justification

For such an arrangement.

But a single United Kingdom count would only fuel controversies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; in the absence of official figures, anyone disappointed by the UK total could claim that 100 per cent of his "nation" had voted the opposite of the English.

A count by administrative counties or their counterparts elsewhere would not only show how the four parts of the United Kingdom vote but would also clear differences within each area. If the final verdict is as clear-cut as the Irish referendum, in which 83 per cent voted in favour of community membership, these differences would probably reflect the values of pro-Community sympathy.

If the outcome is a rejection of membership by 53.5 to 46.5 per cent as in Norway, more detailed counts would undoubtedly show local or regional majorities on opposite sides in almost every area.

If Mr Wilson wishes to end 14 years of uncertainty in Britain and Europe and almost as many years of dispute within his own party, then he will take decisions that will encourage the fullest vote in the referendum—and the most clear-cut result.

Richard Rose

Now, and in what circumstances, I found out that Senator Barry Goldwater and I are likely to become the best of buddies in 1976, managed to mislay a Labour MP in Main Street, Disneyworld, and duly reported the loss of its turn-of-the-century City Hall, talked politics with a lady taxi-driver who once worked for the CIA and took two dives, fully clothed, into Florida's (or was it, I wonder) Florida swimming pools in a Florida swimming pool is not news.

If my reporting of these incidents served any purpose other than to introduce what otherwise might be a dull disquisition on Euro-American journalism to the readers of this newspaper's man in Washington would have been on to them and dutifully filed a story. As it is, I am in no danger of breaching my unwritten, unadmitted agreement with warlike journalists that even if I stumble on to (or dive into) anything like hard news I do not write it.

But a few words of explanation are in order: Barry Goldwater, of course, is an anti-shipwrecking politician since he is the senior Republican member of the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, and carried considerable weight elsewhere in Washington's political scene. He formed public opinion (to call it merely a world is in

(adequate) his confident prediction that modernized flying ships will be in the air within two years raised my spirits rather higher than the ships will raise cargo.

"I was very depressing. Three of the 80 questions the members of Western European Union's committee on aerospace were sent to Washington to ask the Senate, the State Department and other agencies in the aerospace business were Mr Goldwater's currently favourite subject 'Asking me about airships' he told me, 'is like asking me to talk about my grandchildren'."

The *London Evening Standard* said: "I can understand why diving is not to be his so expert on Dixieland jazz, steel bands and was once a contender for a ballroom dancing championship. Was Mr Frank Tomney, I did not lose him deliberately. We were much better in the United States than we have ever done in either Paris or Strasbourg. The diving was done (as they say in one of the television cigarette commercials) just to please a lady and her young son."

So much for trivia, and out into space. Britain and other European countries are already there, of course. Not all the American launchers are American. But, so far, every Euro-

been effort to go it alone by developing an independent launching capacity has failed. Yet, out of the debris, we have finally organized a European Space Agency, which is building the space station and the lunar ferry moon-rovers—multinational mega-operations—such as scientists and engineers—out there.

They will go far less expensively than the moon-explorers went. Nearly all of the competition for the moon has been burned to cinders as it fell back into the atmosphere. What is now being developed is a space shuttle, the larger part of which will go up and come down like an aeroplane. Space travel will never become quite as simple as the flight between London and Castle Donington; but the era of the (relatively) cheap 30-day rammer is about to begin.

But why? Are there not other uses for the fantastic industrial resources of the world? A recording device, smaller than a shirt button, that can tape the equivalent of no less than 12 albums of long-playing records? Cancer—the malignant disease that gives NASA an electronically operated laboratory no bigger than a minister's dispatch box that can do work which, if earth-bound, would take up more than half the space now occupied by all the hospitals and thousands of Commons be put to better use?

Most members of my party

would answer such questions in the affirmative. I do it. I regard the exploration of space as justifiable in its own right (as was the ascent of Everest).

But there has already been a useful spin-off. A spin-off in American textile mill, for example, and now instead in four other countries, including Poland, increases productivity by between 2 and 6 per cent. It was a by-product of multilateral trade talks, and a spin-off from a space station in a space station built to the Saturn rocket. The chemical means used by four American states to implement anti-pollution laws came directly from the computer model used in the Apollo programme.

Our country has a list of 413 separate terrestrial benefits from work done in outer space. And we are shy at the time when we are asked to conserve resources by satellite, and utilizing what has been learned from space medicine.

There is something else that can be tackled only by the collective known as the United States space use (the sun creates power energy in a second than man has used since civilization began. We must find out how to tap that on a large scale.

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About 1250 members of the National Union of Students moved into the North Wales resort of Llandudno at the weekend. They are discussing, among other things, student housing, grants, education spending cuts, sending aid to Communist China, the right of homosexuals to sport, homosexual rights and the Common Market. They have also been electing officers for the coming year. That is always an exciting time for the party. The candidates come from a multitude of political parties which exist only among students. Stuart Reid went up to pick his way through the political undergrowth. He reports:

"The globalists, student politics are rooted firmly in the Left. The terms Left and Right change their normal meanings when used by students. "The Right begins with the Labour Party", said a reporter from a Glasgow student newspaper. "The Left begins with the Tories. The Right is a wide and deep. There seem to be five main groups representing the Left, and two from the Right. Here is a guide to them:

The Broad Left: Members include Communists, Marxists and Left-wing Labour supporters. Advocates a peaceful transition to Socialism, though some powerful members believe that peaceful transition has its limitations.

National Organization of Labour Students: More militant than the Broad Left, especially on student grants. Believes no great changes can be made in education until capitalism ends. Supports Labour Party, but presidential candidate Jeff Cuthbert criticised himself as a Trotskyite Marxist.

National Organization of

International Socialist Societies. Believe the NUS is not sufficient to carry out the plan of the NUS executive has become simply a stepping stone for a career.

Young Socialists Student Society. A Workers Revolutionary Party organization. Trotskyite and strongly anti-Labour, described by its detractors as arrogant, Condemns "the NUS as a tool of the NUS and the NUS and their hang-ons in the International Socialists and International Marxist groups."

The Revolutionary State. The student wing of the International Marxist Group. Traditional enemy of the WRP. Claims the economic crisis in education and elsewhere is the responsibility of employers and the state.

On and on the Right. . . .

University of London Students. Libertarian Socialists who deny they are on the right. Believe NATO is counter-productive. Detractors say their members include Thorpeites and one Whig.

Radical Action Group. To the right of the former, though their representative, Andrew Vallance-Owen, is a Labour voter. Advocates greater concern about student affairs and less about international affairs.

Full-time posts were filled by

Broad Left candidates. The four went to Hugh Lunn, the Independent Socialist. The new president is Charles Clarke, who describes himself variously as a Marxist and a Tribune Labourite.

The two other representatives returned as council members were Alistair Stewart (a non-aligned Marxist, re-elected as deputy council president) and Sue Milne (a Tribune Socialist and national secretary).

Mike Shillman was a Communist and the first woman to gain a full-time post on the national executive. Here's wishing them a militant new year, full of purposive in-fighting.

Evenin' all

The Lord Mayor entertained a throng of policemen and their wives at the Guildhall on Monday night to mark the 100th anniversary of the International Police Association. Delegates from more than 30 countries have brought colleagues and friends to watch them at work. The association was founded by Sir William Blandy, the first official standing by Britain.

"A lot of these foreign lads will be here on paid time, and some with assisted passages", said a constable from R. Division. "But we have to do it for our own name and can't have a lot of work. Last year I had to arrest a man's pr-

Yet another restaurant guide will be published shortly, to disagree with all the others. James Sherwood's *Discriminating Guide to London* differs from its rivals not only in its verdicts but also in having the collocations to print lists of the establishments to which it disapproves.

Sherwood is a high-living American shipowner, and the comments in his guide deliberately deem some famous reputations. Simpson's-in-the-Strand ("waiters"; like "vaudeville actors"); Wiltons ("middling to below average"); the White ("pretentious menu . . . and long wait"); the Rique Blanche ("as under-staffed as it is overrated"); Maison Frumier ("probably frequented by your elderly friends") all feature in a section called "Not for Us", despite their inclusions and awards in the Good Guide, Egon Ronay and AA Guides.

Says if we send Tristram to a Comprehensive now, how will we convince people it's a matter of principle.



Sherwood was similarly disapproving of the Ritz Dining Room, which has closed while he was going to press, and has condemnatory remarks for another 20 well-known London restaurants. The ones he liked best were the Capital Hotel, Carrier's Le Gavroche and Wattonk.

Spine-tingling

There were two surprising things about this year's 3M Young Poet Awards, which were presented by Joyce Grenfell in London yesterday. One was that two schools provided two each

other was that a few were girls. The schools coining double successes were Avech Primary School in Ross-shire, whose Isabel Patience (11) and Kate Bevan-Baker (10) took first and second place in the junior section; and Wellingborough County (15) School in Northants, whose Catherine Payne (15) and Kaye Tompkins (17), respectively won the secondary and senior secondary sections.

Wellingborough has a good record in previous years of the competition, and the explanation is said to be that it is an Avech having particularly good poetry teachers.

The sexual bias was explained by John Welch, senior staff inspector of the Inner London Education Authority, who has one of the three judges. "Girls are generally better than boys at 15," he said, "or 16, or 17."

Everyone agreed the standard was high, though Miss Giffell, in her best St. Trinian's manner, regretted that too few of the poets had succumbed to the discipline of rhyme. She aptly told a touching tale about her friend with Walter de la Mare, who, like A. E. Housman, said in his stomach, "Miss Giffell disagreed, saying that in her case the tall-tale sign was anything of the spine.

Today's prize obfuscation is from an estate agent in Litchworth, Hertis, who described a house as "deceptively spectacular."

PHS



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THE ORPHANS OF VIETNAM

etnam has been called the television war, a war that brought home to everyone the horrors of fighting, the despair of suffering of innocent civilians, and the appalling destruction of the modern inventions war. For a dozen years past the tress of this single country has been constantly illuminated. The pact of television is immediate, as explosive. Emotions are excited and seemingly naturally used. The collapse in South Vietnam has magnified all that in before in the long files of ages and the cruel conditions of war.

Only in the past week has a sudden burst of emotion gathered and the plight of Vietnam's orphaned children. Unlike all the other emotions this one prompted action, and in a moment of crisis the organized and sweeping rescue operations were hurriedly put in train. Already that burst of emotion is dying away. It was locked by the tragedy of last Friday's air crash. It has been strained by the South Vietnamese Government's action. And it collapsing most of all in face of second thoughts over the relief of the emotions were genuine and praiseworthy in intention must be allowed. At all small children are likely to be in distress. They are helpless; they are innocent; by their nature they are appealing; and in a tragic country they have been the more deserving than children elsewhere.

Unhappily such emotions may be vitiated by concealed assumptions. Are these infants being rescued from "communism" and the action thereby the more

noble? How much guilt lies behind the generous gestures? There is a common danger that sentiment can serve as a screen for patronage and a patronage that will only too probably be ephemeral. Or one may put it bluntly and ask whether such a "baby airlift" must not seem insulting to the Vietnamese—to all Vietnamese of whatever political colouring. Those puzzled by the Vietnamese resentment over the western rush to extract planeloads of infants must have gained little understanding of the feelings that have fuelled anti-colonialist nationalism all over the world in the past thirty years. Why should the Vietnamese be deficient in care for children? No-one doubts that circumstances are inimical to such care just now but that does not justify the ill-conceived rescue operations that were being proposed last week.

To come closer to the actual problem, it is obvious that co-operation and practicality should accompany charity. Questions need to be asked. Are these children's lives at stake? Not from a communist victory as such. Lives are certainly at risk for medical reasons of disease, injury or neglect. But if help is to be given in such cases it can best be done through western aid by those special agencies that have sent trained staff to Vietnam to give their own devoted service. Such aid is usually unsung but it is the better for that and it saves lives most effectively.

The more common emotion and a most dangerous in face of suffering children is the desire to adopt one. There is the rewarding belief that the child

will be pulled out of a disagreeable background to be given the benefits of a better one. This is where self-examination is necessary lest emotion should disguise all the pitfalls. What thought is given to the problems of adolescents brought up in a culture so different from the one they sprang from? That can be crippling. Moreover there are plenty of needy children—often of mixed parentage it is true—who have been born in Britain and need adoption or fostering. Furthermore the assumption that so many of the Vietnamese children are orphans and thus beyond all help except from outside overlooks the strength of the extended family in a culture such as Vietnam. Given peace and a return to normal life many of the infants caught in the swirling tide of war may find salvation from relatives if not from either of their natural parents.

Where American guilt may reasonably be assuaged and where others may justifiably offer help is in the care of children of mixed parentage. Thousands in Vietnam were fathered by American soldiers—black as well as white. Their fate is much less assured even when social prejudice does not tell against them. To take these infants away from the circumstances that brought them into the world to countries where the past will not hang round their necks would be of service—given firmness of intent. In such cases, and in some others where mature consideration may justify it, outside help can be offered. But publicity should be avoided. Vietnam is not a country over which western charity should vaunt itself.

BRITAIN ON THE FAST LINE

fore rail travellers cramped or delayed as a result of the last industrial dispute congratulate themselves too much at the news that it has been settled; they may be to reflect that all their sufferings were only over a side issue. The main clash may still be to come. Like the signalman's action a few weeks ago, the over-ban by maintenance supervisors expressed the grievance of a minority group of railway workers who felt that they were being done by in last year's major restructuring exercise. It took place at the same time as the momentous negotiations over the industry's annual pay rise, in which the British Railway Board's offer stands at about 3 per cent, while the railwaymen's hopes are set on 35 per cent.

The separate action of the workshop supervisors was not remarkable in an industry where different groups are represented by several unions, between which there is often a more or less rivalry. Other categories of workers have similar claims which they press if they judge that the supervisors' action was "worthwhile"—a factor which has complicated the negotiations already efficiently complicated by the fact that the workers directly concerned included members of less than five unions. The wider question of railwaymen's pay is far more significant. They seek to gain a settlement comparable to what the coal miners gained. The power workers succeeded in the same

attempt last week, in an agreement whose inflationary tendency moved even Mr. Foot's Department of Employment to say a rare word of disapproval. These events have given an extra importance to the railways in the miners' terms to a level applicable to the rest of the community. The special position of the miners is shared to a lesser degree by the power workers and to some degree by the railwaymen too. Traditionally there has been a relationship between the pay of surface workers in the mines and certain grades of railwaymen (it is noteworthy that the miners' union found the coal board most resistant to its claims in just these categories). In turn, railway work can be directly compared with a wide range of other jobs. If it is to be paid 30 per cent more, the pressure for that to become the general target in the private as well as the public sector will become almost irresistible.

But the railwaymen are not in as strong a bargaining position as the miners or the power workers. The service they provide is less essential, and the danger of a large increase rebounding on themselves is more apparent. A moment when transport policy shows some signs of retreating from its emphasis on the advantages of rail is no time to be driving fares upwards unduly. Although the NUR responded to the British Railways Board's recent talk of bankruptcy with all the characteristic confidence of public

sector workers in the unlimited availability of funds to maintain the services they provide, the railways today are very far from being immune to the forces of the market.

Recent events have tended to reinforce the impression that the public sector is providing the decisive impetus in wage inflation at the moment. Its workers are to varying degrees exempt from the pressures that the state of the economy imposes on commercial enterprises. It is true that the national agreement on a minimum rate for engineering workers is as high as anything in the public sector, but its effects are likely to be modified by local bargaining in the light of economic reality. But inevitably exorbitant public sector bargains influence the rest; it is time that the Treasury's methods of controlling public spending took fuller account of the cost of wage increases.

For rapid wage inflation in the coming year is likely to damage Britain's interests, even more than it has done up to now. While the rate in Britain moves up again towards the levels of last year, inflation in the rest of the world is slowing down. United States economists expect their domestic rate to be down to five per cent by the end of the year. Unless wage increases here fall back at least to a level comparable with the rise in the cost of living, Britain will suffer a further sharp decline in the pound, with the effect that will have in accelerating inflation further.

THE WINE WAR IN THE WINE LAKES

he French Government has early violated the Treaty of Rome by suspending Italian wine imports. Now, abiding by the letter of the treaty, the Commission has begun legal action to force France before the European Court of Justice. This is what the Italians have asked for, it before the issue reaches the court the French have time to play to the charges. Furthermore the agriculture ministers the Nine will be discussing the matter at an emergency meeting next week. This means that the dispute will almost certainly be solved on a political level rather than in the court.

This will dismay those who believe that if the Community is to mean anything the Treaty must be strictly enforced. Others will be reassured to find once again that there can be a big difference between theory and practice in the workings of the Community, and that when real difficulties arise it is the politicians rather than the Eurocrats who are called in to find a solution. Either way it says something about the Community that

eighteen years after the Treaty was signed and five years after Italian wine was first allowed to circulate freely one member can still be found raising barriers against another. The nation state is still alive and kicking. This may be some comfort to British fishermen and farmers who worry about the British Government's ability to defend their interests.

There is now a glut of wine in Europe, largely because there have been two bumper harvests in France and Italy but also because Italy has been pushing hard to replace Algeria as France's chief source of cheaper wines, while French wine producers have been suffering a fairly severe drop in income after the boom of two years ago.

Thus there is a short-term problem of disposing of about 500 million gallons of surplus wine, and a long-term problem of achieving a better balance between supply and demand, quality and quantity, in an industry notoriously difficult to control, especially in Italy. The current surplus could be sold at subsidized prices outside the Community, mainly to

the Soviet Union, but member governments have unhappy memories of how the public reacted when their taxes were used to subsidize the sale of 200,000 tons of butter to the Soviet Union in 1973. They do not wish to repeat the experiment if they can help it. They therefore seem more likely to distil the wine for industrial purposes, which costs more but is more easily understood.

But the wider problem remains. Butter mountains and wine lakes are part of the price which Europe pays for a common agricultural policy which was intended primarily to protect the producers but which also helps to stabilize prices for the consumers. They create problems, but they are not the end of the world and they must be balanced against other stresses which they avert. The present dispute shows how a chain reaction of discrimination can start when one member reverts to protectionism. But it also shows the Community and its member governments struggling imperfectly but not ineffectually to reconcile national and community interests.

Too many administrators

From Dr Andrew Miller
Sir, We read that the Royal Air Force is to lose 300 pilots and a number of senior technicians. No administrator will lose his job. Are we not a bit top-heavy in administrators generally? As non-productive workers, their numbers surely should be kept to the minimum compatible with efficient

working. As a war-time squadron commander I recall that the RAF functioned effectively with a very small proportion of administrators, who were under the control of the aircrew branch. In the reorganization of the National Health Service the main result has been a proliferation of administrators with large salary increases. Some hospital administrators have had their pay increased from £6,000 to £9,600, with no real

change in their work. In one hospital their first act was to allocate £36,000 for up-grading their offices. Nobody has yet suggested reducing the number of hospital consultants, but this would be comparable with the action which is being taken against the Royal Air Force. Yours faithfully, A. F. MILLAR, Benson, Oxford, March 29.

Financing local government

From Sir Meredith Whittaker
Sir, Thank you for your leader "A much abused tax" (April 5). At a time when local government has been coming in for so much ill-informed criticism, not only from ratepayers, who can be excused their unfamiliarity with a complex subject, but also from some newspapers, who can not, it is refreshing to read such well-reasoned argument, without necessarily accepting all your conclusions.

You are right to emphasize that "the main reason why spending has gone up is that local government has been constantly being urged to take up extra tasks or raise the standard of its services." I would say that broadly speaking this is what the people of this country want. There is no discernible lobby against the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act or the recent proliferation of consumer protection legislation, or in favour of larger school classes, diminished social services, or smaller police forces. Vague general calls for "restraint" are superficially popular, but it is not surprising that they should be relatively ineffective. They always have the go-ahead by local authorities specifically what they would cut and what would be saved thereby.

It is true that the cost of new policies is all too often inadequately assessed by those who campaign for and those who ordain them, and I support the case for a more coherent scrutiny of the effects of proposed edicts, and local authorities or their associations should be more closely involved in it. The Association of County Councils have been asking for this for a long time.

Moving from the cost of the services to the method of meeting that cost, the fundamental trouble is that local government's financial base—charges (mostly but not entirely rents), grants from national government and the rates—is too narrow, too inflexible, and too vulnerable to inflation. Local government urgently needs another source of revenue in order to meet its ever-increasing responsibilities and to reduce the extent of its reliance on regressive rates.

As you say, almost all the submissions to the Layfield Committee look favourably on a form of local income tax to make good this deficiency, and I suggest that you are wrong to dismiss it as you do. It would indeed "be impossible to set up a myriad local income tax and revenue authorities" but they would not be needed for the local surcharge on income tax (LSIT) advocated by (among others) this association. The surcharge would be collected by the existing machinery and paid over by the Inland Revenue. You exaggerate the difficulties in this "method of financing any large company live under various council" if, as we advocate, county councils levied the surcharge, the number of authorities with which any wage-paying point was concerned would usually be quite small. Some of the difficulties, some of them would be there always as the introduction of any new tax—VAT, for example. But they would be worth facing as a way out of our present troubles. Certainly the way out is not the transfer of whole sections of local government responsibilities to central government. That would not cure local government's ailment; it would kill the patient.

Yours faithfully, MEREDITH WHITTAKER, Chairman of the Executive Council, Association of County Councils, Raton House, 66a Eaton Square, SW1.

From the Leader of the Greater London Council
Sir, The article in last week's paper by Mr. Boynton (April 3) and your subsequent leader are welcome. Increasing criticism of local gov-

ernment direct and implied from many quarters calls for constructive answers. As Leader of the largest local authority in the country, and one whose reorganization set the pattern for the more recent reform, experience of the GLC's first ten years does give grounds for such a reply.

Recent polls conducted by the GLC show that people do understand locally and regionally administered powers to a surprisingly sophisticated level. Two out of three respondents in our poll realized that the GLC, not just the boroughs, was the planning authority for major strategic schemes. Similar awareness was shown on how powers were divided between the GLC and boroughs.

What people do find hard to understand, for example, is why the number of controlled pedestrian crossings in local authority areas is determined by the Department of the Environment. The same bewilderment and frustration will occur if the recent shift of control of sewage disposal to the non-elected Regional Water Authorities leads to situations where housing schemes get the go-ahead by local authorities but are vetoed because the RWA refuses to put in the sewers. The Scots and the Welsh, by winning for themselves national assemblies, have found an effective solution to the tendency to administer services financed by taxes through a central government department, an accountable government departments and public boards. In London, with a population larger than either of these two countries, the chances of such a remedy seem remote.

What local government should now be fighting for is the right to govern. Instead of soldiering on, taking upon itself without complaint the criticisms that fall upon it, as agents of central government. Unless we do this, and quickly, then I have grave fears about the survival of local democracy as we have known it in this country.

A substantial amount of local authority spending is financed by the national exchequer and will continue to be. But some 75 per cent of our expenditure is as a direct result of central government policy. Where criticism should be aimed is at the relationship between local and central government and at the uncoordinated demands of government policy on local resources.

What the local authority does is to bring geographically and practically the administration of public services closer to people. But how can we do this—how do we do this—without a viable financial base? The Layfield Committee is currently examining this problem and the GLC has submitted radical proposals for reform. But the inquiry will take time and in the current climate of economic discontent who else would take on the duties of local authorities?

Local government has been part of British democracy for many years, it must and can be constantly examined. Such examination today, I believe, shows that too much responsibility has been taken from it in recent years. The more powers administered by local government the more people have control over their locality and the healthier is democracy.

I agree with Mr. Boynton that local government has a unique contribution to make to our way of life. I believe, on reflection, most thinking people would share this view. I join with your correspondent in asking them to now stand up and be counted as supporters of local democracy.

Yours faithfully, REG GOODWIN, Leader of the Greater London Council, County Hall, SE1, April 8.

University teachers' pay

From Professor K. Burton
Sir, It is futile to discuss whether or not universities have a monopoly in higher education when they are being quietly strangled. Of course, their spending should be prudent but there is no justification for the successive penalties that have been placed on university teachers in both their salaries and conditions of work.

Over several years their pay awards have been well below those given to comparable groups. A highly-qualified young lecturer may now be paid less than a technician with the same age but fewer responsibilities. Yet productivity (measured in student/staff ratios) has been increasing in most departments. The work load is greater because of frozen vacancies, promotion prospects have dwindled and the real money for libraries, research, and essential travel has been savagely cut.

An important part of a university lecturer's duty is to extend his subject by his own initiative and contributions. Time and money to do this are becoming increasingly difficult to find. University libraries

cannot now afford to buy the basic books just to keep abreast of recent developments.

There has not been a more public outcry can only be attributed to the devotion of university teachers to their work and to their tradition of public-spirited opposition to militancy. Many are not members of a trade union and a large majority of those in the Association of University Teachers voted against joining the Trades Union Congress. They accepted a 7 per cent increase in 1974 although it did little to compensate for past inflation.

The sick joke of 1975 is that the Government has refused the present claim of the AUT because of the social contract! Many of us fear the damage that a growth of trades union militancy would do to the atmosphere needed for creative academic work. Yet this will be an inevitable outcome of the Government's present policies towards universities.

Yours faithfully, K. BURTON, Head of Department of Biochemistry, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Voice of Opposition

From Mr T. S. K. Yeo
Sir, No doubt Mr. Bryan Magee's extensive and long established acquaintance with Members of Parliament, which he describes with such touching pride (April 2), has isolated him from contact with the real world.

His assertion that the true debate on four critical issues of the day is taking place within the Labour Party rather than between Government and Opposition strains credulity to an extent which must leave even other left-wing academics gasping in admiration.

Where indeed would the rule of law be now if the voice of Labour backbenchers had been unchecked by the Opposition on matters such as the Clay Cross councillors or the Shrewsbury pickets? Who will restore the freedom of the press, savagely curtailed by Mr. Foot with scarcely a murmur from his own backbenchers, unless it be the Opposition?

What debate is taking place within the Labour Party on public owner-

ship when a successful company like Bristol Channel Ship Repairs, whose operations so closely conform to the party's stated industrial objectives but which so inconveniently and openly expresses its desire to avoid nationalization, cannot even obtain a hearing for its representatives from either the Secretary of State for Industry or his underlings?

Finally, can the squalid struggle between individuals with differing interpretations of how to advance their own private interests over the issue of the Common Market, a subject on which the Labour leadership has maintained a stance of characteristically mercurial constancy, be graced by the term debate at all?

When Mr. Magee has overcome his astonishment at the magnitude of the Parliamentary buildings, he should venture outside and seek the answers to these questions from members of the public.

Yours faithfully, T. S. K. YEO, 12 Brooksby Street, N1.

When Mr. Magee has overcome his

The EEC debate and party politics

From Lord Bruce of Donington
Sir, It must be a matter for some concern that, despite Mr. Heath's exhortation to "raise the question of our membership of the Community above the level of party politics", Sir Geoffrey Howe has released a letter addressed by him to the Chancellor of the Exchequer warning him of the dangers of introducing a multirate VAT in his next Budget.

After declaring that for smaller business "multirate VAT would probably be the last straw", Sir Geoffrey continued "Many people are appalled by the prospect that you apparently intend to do. It could provoke anger on such a scale that the entire tax collection system might be placed in peril".

Now the shadow Chancellor knows perfectly well that multirate VAT is in operation in all the continental EEC countries and that a simple directive issued by the EEC Commission for application in Britain could become operative here regardless of what is willed by Parliament.

Indeed, in the course of the Lord's debate on the self-employed and the professions on March 5 last, I was able to inform the House of an EEC draft directive, provisionally scheduled to come into operation on January 1, 1976, and designated as applicable to the United Kingdom, which provided, *inter alia*, for the submission of monthly instead of quarterly VAT returns, and a supplementary annual statement; a reduction of the exemption limit on small traders from £5,000 to £1,600 and a substantial broadening of the range of goods and services on which registered traders would not be permitted to deduct input taxes.

The value-added tax was initiated by the Government of which Sir Geoffrey Howe was a member in the full knowledge of the avowed intention of the Community to work steadily towards a harmonization of VAT throughout member states. Moreover his party disclaimed any necessity to renegotiate the original terms of entry.

Despite therefore marginal con-

cessions obtained by the Prime Minister in Dublin whereby "the Government can prevent the adoption of any proposal which would run counter to their stipulation that there should be no harmonization of VAT which would require the taxation of necessities (utilities, mines)" the expressed intention of the EEC Commission still remains unimpaired.

Within this context Sir Geoffrey Howe's strident admonition to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to refrain from doing something which the Government is powerless to prevent should the Brussels Commission decide otherwise may be justly regarded as playing party politics with a vengeance. It is merely a party endeavour to saddle the Government with the odium resulting from courses of action forced on it by a membership of the EEC which he is advocating, at the same time, the nation should retain—hardly in accordance with the referendum—Queen'sbury rules "Yours sincerely, BRUCE OF DONINGTON, House of Lords, April 7.

Cost of referendum

From Miss Elizabeth O'Kelly
Sir, We are told that the cost of the referendum will be around £2m. Payments to the persons supervising it must account for a large part of this sum.

I am sure that, if the Government were to appeal to retired civil servants and teachers and to the major women's organizations, such as the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, the National Federation of Women's Institutes and the Townswomen's Guilds, suitable volunteers could be found who would be prepared to do the work without pay to help the national economy.

Yours truly, E. O'KELLY, 3 Cumberland Gardens, Lloyd Square, WC1, March 27.

Licensing a vehicle

From Mr Patrick Porter
Sir, In The Times Diary (April 3) PHS describes as "misleading" recent advertisements in the press about the new centralized vehicle licensing system based at Swansea.

In particular he takes exception to the wording in the official advertisement: "Further relicensing becomes simpler... you will be able to use any of the 81 new local vehicle licensing offices set up by the Department of the Environment, or any licensing post office; or you may deal direct with the centre at Swansea by post." PHS then claims that under the old system "you could also use the mails or post offices, and could choose from 180 local taxation offices, instead of just 81".

Unfortunately, PHS's strictures are themselves misleading. It is not true that people have been able to release their cars at any of the 180 local taxation offices. Anyone relicensing his car has been able to use only the one office which served his local authority area. Under the new system people have the choice of going to any of the 81 new local political offices set up by the Department of the Environment throughout the country.

Moreover, although under the old system they could go to a post office, that post office had to be in the area of the local taxation office where the vehicle was registered. Now, if a vehicle is registered under the new system, they can go to any licence-issuing post office anywhere in the country.

Nor, of course, is the purpose of the new system to "simplify life for bureaucrats". The change has been made necessary by the increasing number of vehicles on the

roads: six million in 1954 and no less than 11 million today.

In this past year records have been scattered between no less than 180 different local authority taxation offices. Each vehicle's records have had to be transferred when the owner has moved to a new local authority area. With the growing number of vehicles this system has become an ever increasing strain. The purpose of centralizing the records is to enable a satisfactory service to continue.

Yours faithfully, PATRICK PORTER, Department of the Environment, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre, Longview Road, Swansea, April 3.

From Mrs Louise Smith
Sir, PHS reports (April 3) on the new vehicle licensing system centralized at Swansea. My experience of it so far may be of some interest.

December 18: I took delivery of a new car. December 27: I received the log book from Swansea with a misprint in my address on it. As requested in such a case, I returned the log book with a detailed explanation.

January 10: I received no acknowledgment of my letter. March 21: Having heard nothing whether or not I wrote to Swansea inquiring when I might receive the log book again. To date, there has been no reply.

Perhaps the new system is really designed to simplify life for the public by making log books unnecessary. Yours faithfully, LOUISE SMITH, Fairmead, Beckingham Green, Tolleshunt Major, Malden, Essex, April 4.

Britain and Middle East

From Sir John Richmond
Sir, As a humble student of recent history in the Middle East I must protest against the publication of Mr. Eric Marsden's *Jeu d'esprit* in your issue of April 4. To suggest that the annexation of Sinai was a real option for HM Government after World War One is unworthy of a serious newspaper and to claim that it could have been done, Britain's "moment in the Middle East" might have been prolonged to the advantage of all concerned, is surely sentimental nostalgia carried to absurdity.

Colonel Meinertzhagen had a strong personality and good political connexions, but, as is apparent in the article, judgement was not his strongest suit. It is a travesty of history to suggest that he was "right" and all other political officers of the period blinded by their pro-Arab proclivities; however understandable may be the eagerness of Mr. Marsden's Israeli hosts to suggest that everyone was out of step except their Dickie.

Yours faithfully, J. C. B. RICHMOND, 30 The Avenue, Durham City, April 7.

Power of trade unions

From Mr P. M. Forrester
Sir, Is not Mr. Brendan Sewill (April 3) still fighting against the inevitable? Surely it must be accepted that in a democratic society capitalism becomes increasingly ineffective as the less privileged come to realize their collective strength, quite apart from the obsolescence of industrial capital; and ours is the oldest industrial society.

In the end an authoritarian government is bound to supersede. The nature of this government, that is to say, the extent to which it represents the choice of the people as a whole, and not simply of an especially ruthless and powerful minority, must depend very largely on the wisdom and understanding with which this inevitable change of constitution is approached.

Perhaps the last chance for a diplomatic and conciliatory approach was finally lost by the various policies of confrontation and defiance that have been followed by the British Government. But even now, if violent revolution can still be avoided, compromise and conciliation and not a new form of confrontation as recommended by Mr. Sewill, offer the best hope.

Yours faithfully, P. M. FORRESTER, Hawthorn, Charlwood, Surrey, April 4.

Oldest boat club

From Mr H. M. Stewart
Sir, While I must congratulate Mr. A. J. B. Rutherford (Letters, April 5) on writing to you 50 years after his earlier letter to claim First Tripty Boat Club as "the oldest boat club in either university" I must also add that "it all depends what you mean by a boat club".

There is clear surviving documentary evidence that the Lady Margaret Boat Club was founded in October, 1825, as a properly constituted club with rules, its own eight-oared boat and two crews to man it. If, however, you accept, as Mr. Rutherford appears to do, no more than a crew drawn entirely from the members of one foundation, then priority should surely go to the predecessor of Lady Margaret Beaufort's foundation.

When in 1511, it became necessary to "remove from Cambridge unto Ely the late fellows of Saynt Iohnnis house yn Cambridge", so that the foundation of Saint John's College might proceed, "they departed from Cambridge towards Ely the xij day of March at iij of the clocke at afternoon by water". There were three "fellows" exactly the crew of a pair-oar with cox.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, H. M. STEWART, c/o The College Office, St John's College, Cambridge, April 7.

Don't lament
the end of
that bad old
BNEC!

From Mr. G. Simpson
Sir, Your contributor Melys Westlake, writing of the BONEC (Business News, March 1971) looks back somewhat nostalgically at its predecessor, the B.N.E.C. The taxpayer should not share his affection for the B.N.E.C. As a past member of the Diplomatic Service, with a good deal of experience of export promotion, I have seen the B.N.E.C. in action and consider that the Government's decision to turn it to an end was well justified.

The senior businessmen who gave their time to it were well intentioned and some of its activities were beneficial, but very many of the latter were a waste of time and money. Criticism should be directed at the following:

Its executive was overstuffed with less successful businessmen.

It too often did things in the sake of doing something and was overendemic about giving the public a picture which attracted publicity, but which anyone with marketing sense would recognize as unbusinesslike.

Yours faithfully,
G. ROWBERRY,
Rowberry, Morris and Company
8 Ascot Towers,

Windsor Road,
Ascot,
Berkshire.
April 4.

borrower and indexed bonds

The first time buyer of house priced at £10,000 would find his immediate outgoing actually reduced by almost £1,000 per annum (gross). Against this his increased money debt would rise in line with rises in the cost of living but so also would wages and hence the capacity to repay.

Indeed, the real position to both buyer and lender would be precisely the same as if there were no inflation. Cash to maintain liquidity would be readily available to building societies since a risk-less, inflation-proofed asset bearing a real interest would be the most attractive investment available to buyers at the present time.

Societies would, if anything, find themselves embarrassed by the inflow of funds. The country would enjoy an immediate building boom as the demand

Of course, indexation is the best solution to the obvious injustice. As Mr. Griggs rightly observed, one indexed box

leads to another until eventually the thing is indexed and the index itself is reduced to nonsense. The same society, or at least one which understood what it was doing to itself, would take immediate steps to stabilize the value of its currency.

To pretend that this cannot be done is to ignore the lessons of history. Again and again irresponsible governments have

debased or permitted the
basement of their currency
the purposes of short term gain

one year, and yet each time, after the usual round of confusion, misapprehension and social disruption, reform and stabilisation has been achieved by methods as old as the hills. Well understood as money is, it is not. Yours sincerely,
I. F. PEARCE,
Professor of Economics,
J. A. KREGEL,
Lecturer in Economics,
Southampton University.
April 3.

ish tolerate such

obviously, the first requirement is the political courage to bring your Post Office costs into line, but while we wait for such a miracle, let me suggest two interim measures:

- (1) Use only second class

quite obviously, if no one takes the seven penny post, all the 5½ penny post will get provided.

(2) Use the phone—Did you know you can talk 14.01 minutes during the day and 5.00 minutes in the evening for seven pence in your local area? To around 35 miles, you get 14.01 minutes in the morning and 14.01 minutes in the afternoon, 14.01 minutes at night. Even further away, you get around 14 minutes during the day and more than five at night. Letters are inefficient anyway what with the high cost of secretaries, distribution time, paper, printing. (You might consider a column titled "Phone Calls

The Times".)

Yours faithfully,
W. A. DOUGLASS

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Main Points from Chairman's Statement

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PREMIUM INCOME

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**NEW BUSINESS
PENSIONS**

3

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

GKN sets out its case

may be that GKN scarcely ded to grasp the opportunity of a rights issue at this juncture in quite the way that Tubes did. But having taken the plunge, it is to have done so in more winning style than Tubes, the proceeds adding some 7 per cent to resources employed and roughly 5 per cent in Tubes case.

Code and catalogue which spurred Freeman's growth where estimated rather than calculated prices had no be introduced with great rapidity last May. In the event, these proved a little too keen, as is seen by the 30 per cent sales leap in the closing 24 weeks and a fall in pre-tax profits of 14 per cent.

Compounding the drop in trading margins here was also the steep rise in interest charges, up from £396,000 to £1,144,000 for the full year as inflationary pressures made their inevitable impact upon working capital requirements. At both companies, the expectation is that borrowings may edge ahead somewhat in 1975, but not nearly to the same extent as happened last year. Both companies are restricting their credit periods, cutting back on agent recruitment and changing the way they do the least profitable lines. But high gearing appears to be with us for some considerable time yet.

At 74p, Gratnax has the greater defensive merit given its price of 84 per cent and a p/e ratio of 8. These compare with Freeman's return of only 4.3 per cent and p/e of 10 after recalculating earnings on a standard tax charge. Yesterday's fall in the share price to 157p has further to go, although the Sears stake of over 20 per cent remains a substantial barrier.

Gratnax Final: 1974/75 (1973/74) Capitalization £34.3m Sales £106m (£28m) Pre-tax profits £3.9m (£10.7m) Earnings per share 3.70p (12.4p) Dividend gross 6.66p (6.55p)

Freeman's Final: 1974/75 (1973/74) Capitalization £36.3m Sales £97.5m (£77.2m) Pre-tax profits £7.04m (£7.60m) Earnings per share 17.7p (17.5p) Dividend gross 6.75p (6.13p)

Taylor Woodrow Good second half

Taylor Woodrow was expected to produce a 1974 profit increase of some 10 per cent after a static showing at the interim, and it did not disappoint. What was well beyond expectations, however, was that the group should have achieved this gain after a £2.6m exceptional loss at Myton. The implication is that the industrial trading strength during the second half proved to be much stronger than anyone anticipated. That, in turn, must raise expectations for the present year.

The loss itself arose from the disposal of Myton's three outstanding developments. It was finally decided these should be absorbed into the group's own property portfolio, even though an independent valuation threw up a heavy loss. This apart, Myton turned in a healthy profit of £300,000.

For the rest, the overseas interests moved ahead strongly, with Canada up by some 25 per cent at more than £2m and the contracting interests, particularly in Indonesia and Singapore, coming through well. At home, housing was down £1.6m to £1m on housing completions, some 200 lower at 500, but construction remained buoyant.

It seems, moreover, as though the group is far from running out of steam. The construction side has a strong enough order book to see it through into 1976 and the prospects for housing are now beginning to look better, while the overseas interests are going as well as ever. In short, one must be looking for a further useful profit gain this year and the shares, up 6p to 216p yesterday, where they

Blackwood Hodge Still going strong

The preliminary statement from Blackwood Hodge for 1974 makes encouraging reading. At half-time pre-tax profits were 49 per cent ahead and for the full year to last December they were 50 per cent up on a 28.5 per cent rise in sales—of which only 15 per cent was due to inflation—and pre-tax margins widened from 5 per cent to 5.8 per cent. The dividend goes up by the maximum, where it is covered more than four times by earnings and only exchange losses—a turnover here of £1.5m—stopped net profits from going ahead. There is to be a one-for-10 scrip issue and this year's profits could be substantially ahead again.

Of last year's pre-interest profits of £14.4m, United Kingdom profits were only £2.8m, giving the group strong defensive qualities. There is no construction slump for BH in Britain (as in 1972) because it is big in motorways and Coal Board work, not in housebuilding.

Nowhere overseas, moreover, is BH's market penetration uncomfortably large. Even in Canada, the best market, it has only 15 per cent of available business, while in Europe it has only 5 per cent. The Middle East is virtually untapped. BH can see a further 85 per cent slump pushing it off course this year. A weakening pound would do it good. The shares rose 1p to 92p yesterday, but they are not the easiest to deal in, with institutions and family trusts controlling some 70 per cent of the issue.

Apart from that, sceptics can only fasten on the thought that the key General Motors franchise, covering about 40 per cent of BH business, is not automatically renewable. But there is no real reason for doing so, and it does not come for renegotiation until 1980 anyway. The yield is 5 per cent and the p/e 6.1.

Final: 1974 (1973) Capitalization £17.9m Sales £146.4m (£113.9m) Pre-tax profits £8.5m (£5.7m) Earnings per share 15.1p (11.2p) Dividend gross 4.5p (4.1p)

Assoc Biscuits Appetite for capital

After last week's hull on the rights front, momentum appears to be picking up again. Associated Biscuits last night joining the queue after GKN's announcement earlier in the day. Nor can AB's issue be counted out, much of a surprise given the soaring working capital requirement in the food industry that have already brought RHM and Unigate to market. AB's requirement was up £9m last year. How well this issue will go down remains to be seen. Unigate closes Friday—there is a national yield of 10.9 per cent on the new shares, while pre-tax profits, ahead by 10 per cent last year, will at least be relieved of a number of loss-makers this time round.

Capitalization £14.8m Sales £122m (£91m) Pre-tax profits £5.5m (£5.9m) Earnings per share 7.5p (7.3p) Dividend gross 3.6p (3.2p)

By an overwhelming majority company chairman taking part in *The Times* Survey on Britain and the EEC want the United Kingdom to stay in the Community. Out of a total of 419 who replied to a questionnaire sent to the heads of the country's largest industrial and financial companies 415 said that they personally favoured continued British membership of the EEC. Three people were against and one "Don't know" vote was received.

The poll presents the first clear picture of how the people at the top of British industry look at the question of the United Kingdom's membership of the Community since the terms obtained by the Labour Government in renegotiation became clear. Although industrialists have been traditionally pro-EEC and the Confederation of British Industry has long campaigned actively for the United Kingdom to be a member, the near-unanimity of the replies received is surprising.

Questionnaires were sent to the chairmen of the 500 largest industrial companies in Britain (apart from groups with major newspaper interests) and to leading banks and other financial institutions.

Tariffs, usually thought of as so low in the modern world as to present only a small barrier to trade, seem to play an important role in shaping the attitude of a surprisingly large number of businessmen.

As the chart shows, in assessing the effect of EEC withdrawal upon their own companies, most of those who replied felt that leaving would be some disadvantage—or a large disadvantage—to their companies.

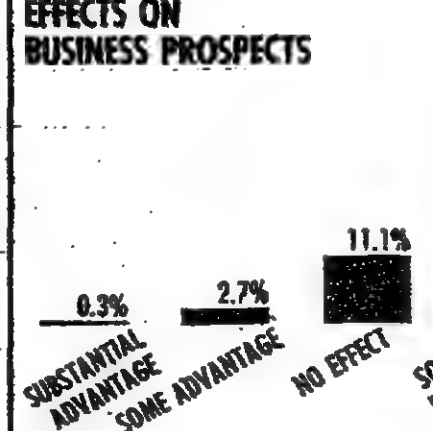
More important even than the harmful effects on the economy as a whole was the loss of markets in Europe (cited 90 times) and the loss of an international money market.

However, there were few respondents who expressed the other commonly cited fear about exclusion from the EEC—that by being shut off from its decision-making machinery we would be faced with common standards which we played no part in shaping. Whether this is because industrialists have become sceptical about the prospects for EEC harmonization, or do not regard it as a major threat, is not clear.

Of those who considered that their company would, or could, benefit from leaving the EEC, a few talked of the effect of various aspects of the EEC's competition policy and particularly the rules governing distribution throughout the Community.

But overall the views revealed about the effects of withdrawal on the companies covered by the survey, while less clear-cut than the personal opinions of the chairmen are decisively on the side of those who favour continued membership. Some 85 per cent of those replying thought that leaving would in some measure be harmful to their company.

This fear of exclusion from a large market, and uncertainty about Britain's future trading



The totals do not add up to 100 per cent because some chairmen expressed no view.

'Times' survey indicates strong support for continued membership

Leaders of biggest companies fear harmful effects of withdrawal from the EEC

Just over 63 per cent of the 615 replied, an unusually good response in a survey of this kind.

In order to make conditions as close as possible to those which will exist in the referendum, all respondents had the guarantee that their replies would be treated in confidence and the survey depends entirely on the voluntary replies of those who decided to take part.

It is therefore possible that a number of those who did not reply hold anti-EEC views, though the same factors which led them not to take part in the survey would presumably also lead them not to play any part in the referendum campaign.

But even if allowance is made for possible indifference or hostility towards the EEC by those who did not take part, the size of the "Yes" vote is striking. Even those who felt that, for one reason or another, leaving the EEC would be to the advantage of their own company still believed that the country should stay in.

Some indications of the reasons behind this support for the pro-EEC case can be seen in response to the question: "If the United Kingdom leaves the EEC in

relation to your company what particular factor or factors would be (a) harmful, (b) beneficial? A few chairmen were worried by the loss of confidence which Britain would face abroad by pulling out of an organization to which it is committed by Treaty. One of the largest single categories of reply (65) expressed the view that the United Kingdom economy would suffer heavily.

Not everyone put it as strongly as the textile industry chief who felt that we should be forced to "return to sackcloth and woe" but statements such as "It would put growth back 20 years" or "There would be a lower level of activity in the United Kingdom economy" were quite common.

Interestingly enough, a number of groups in the retail business and in other sectors with a particular dependence on individual consumers said that they expected a lower standard of living overall, with less disposable income for everyone to spend on their goods.

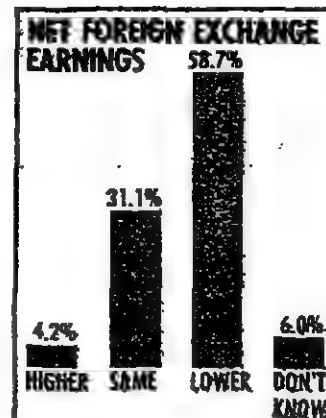
This decline is seen, in most cases, as being a gradual and long-term thing. A small number (seven) talked about the possibility of a sterling crisis upon withdrawal, with the need

for tough government measures and cutbacks in living standards.

But generally speaking most of the chairmen thought that the adverse economic effects of withdrawal would take some time to become fully apparent, just as it is conceded by advocates of EEC membership that the beneficial effects of membership on the United Kingdom economy cannot be expected to become apparent overnight.

Not surprisingly, in view of the almost unanimous support for membership, no one said that leaving the EEC would result in our having a higher rate of growth or being more prosperous. The uncertainties which exist among academic economists, where passionate statements both for and against the effects of Community membership on our prosperity have led many to say that the issue is too finely balanced to make judgments of the likely effects on the economy seem not to be echoed in the boardroom.

In so far as they have a view, the leaders of our top companies are united in saying that leaving the Community would be significantly harmful to our economic prospects.



Balance of trade worries

In an attempt to assess the effect on our balance of payments of withdrawal from the EEC, chairmen were asked what they expected their net foreign exchange earnings to be if the United Kingdom left the Community. Worries which were expressed in their answers about loss of export markets show clearly in their predictions on this issue.

These reveal a more pessimistic trend than the answers to either of the other two questions aimed at gathering views about EEC withdrawal.

Clearly, if these results are borne out by experience, the only way in which the current account on trade could be prevented from worsening sharply would be by a big drop in imports for personal use or for use as raw material by small businesses.

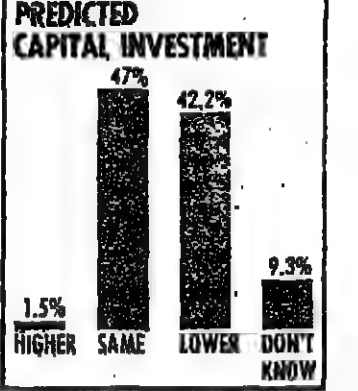
One possible distortion in these estimates is that companies which would expect to be harmed by such a decline, such as the retail sector, tended not to answer the question on the grounds that it did not apply to them, or to predict that their earnings would be the same.

Split on investment

If top businessmen are largely united in their belief that leaving the EEC will be bad for the country and bad for their companies, they are much more evenly split about how they would react to a decision to leave. Indeed, the question "If Britain leaves the EEC, what would you expect your company's medium-term capital investment programme in this country to be?" resulted in only a minority predicting a decline, as the chart shows.

One explanation is that the situation if we leave the EEC contains so many imponderables that it is impossible to make an assessment of a change in future investment. Predicting that it will remain the same is the safest guess that can be made. Another possible reason for this assessment is that companies which might otherwise have built up their investments in other Community countries would be forced to concentrate their investment in the United Kingdom, where a possible reduction in competition from imports would partly compensate.

The situation is clearer when it comes to those companies which would expect their investment to fall. Some of them are subsidiaries of multinational corporations who fear that the United Kingdom would in future be written off by their headquarters, but most of them are United Kingdom-based and expect their investment to fall in response to a drop in their business.



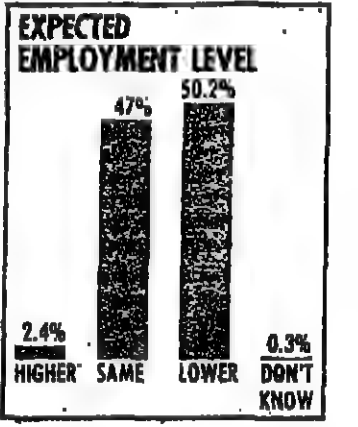
Likelihood of fewer jobs

There seems to be a greater tendency to believe that employment in companies will fall than to expect a drop in investment, if we leave the Community.

The percentage who expect their total employment here to be the same as it would be if the United Kingdom stays in is 47 per cent, equal to the percentage expecting their investment to be unchanged. But the number expecting employment to drop is higher because fewer people used the "Don't know" option.

Too much should probably not be read into the difference and many respondents did stress the difficulty of making assessments in their own cases. The clear implication of the replies is that leaving the Community would result in fewer

workers being employed by a majority of firms and no increase in the number of jobs provided by other companies.



Business Diary: Once more unto the breach...

meth Cork, best known as a river and liquidator, was in afford-on-Avon yesterday for first night of the Royal Shakespeare Company's season, ch begins with Henry V. Cork was neither there in his capacity—although the company does have money problems—nor, strictly speaking, as an. He is chairman of the company, which is forced to operate a used programme of four years, including a repeat. Stanley Orme, the Minister, State with responsibility for Northern Ireland Ministry Commerce, has scotched a

Founded three years ago on the recommendation of a committee chaired by Sir Alec Cairncross, the corporation channels public money into firms undermined by the troubles and is trying to broaden the province's industrial base away from the needle trade, shipbuilding and a few manufacturing plants.

Sir Alec foresaw a long-term role for the corporation, while deputy chairman Brendan Barkin, general secretary of the Public Service Alliance (civil service and local government workers), wants 20 years.

John Watt, the corporation's managing director, left in October and in January was replaced by a general manager, Franklin Adair, formerly personal assistant to Rowan Hamilton, chief executive of Ulster Bank.

The NIRC has recently been taking on more staff, no doubt in anticipation of the promised but so far unspecified extra powers. Cork would like to see the NIRC able to make grants as well as loans to deserving companies and would like to see self-sufficient firms that are actually insolvent.

Meanwhile, spared from having to preside over the demise of the NIRC, Cork was yesterday pondering how the Royal Shakespeare Company could surmount its cash problems. The RSC has been offered about £650,000 by the Arts Council. Cork says about £200,000 short of what the company says it thinks it needs.

Peoples' oil

The launching of a European People's Oil Company to finance the rapid development of North Sea oil and gas is the latest

"Ah, a sure sign that Jim Slater's no longer liquid."

"The North Sea, as the powerhouse of Europe, may be seen as a dream—but with sufficient effort and vision it is a dream which can quickly be converted into a powerful reality for the protection of Europe's long-term interests", Odell concludes.

Philips way

Philips's annual report for 1974 envisages a fall in profits this year, but asserts that prospects for the company's position in the world market are healthy. Behind this ostensibly unremarkable statement lies an interesting trend, 10 years in the making.

Philips's president Benk van Riemsdijk, son-in-law of founder Prits Philips, has said although the number of employees may rise from the present 397,000, the number of jobs in Holland, at present 35,000, will not increase before 1980. The quality of the jobs

will improve, he says, with less unskilled work and more for skilled and white collar employees.

In fact, what is happening at Philips and in other West European firms—is that all activity involving intensive use of unskilled labour in The Netherlands is being run down and transferred to where labour is cheaper and the domestic market less saturated.

What will be left is R and D high-skill production lines and the multinational's administrative heart.

With Philips having foreseen the situation that would arise as the lower income groups achieved better conditions, the penny is now dropping with other concerns—and not only in The Netherlands.

TUC view

The Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth yesterday heard evidence from several of the trade union movement's most senior figures, including Jack Jones, general secretary of the transport workers' union, and Len Murray, TUC general secretary.

Among the commission's members is David Lee, head of the TUC's economic department and the man who did much to prepare the TUC's evidence.

Lee, secretary to the TUC Economic Committee which approved the evidence, asked Murray to elaborate on the TUC's wish that the commission should include sectoral breakdown on wealth as well as information on the personal distribution of wealth in its ultimate report.

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freemans Mail Order

Preliminary results for the year ended 25 January 1975



Key points from announcement:

- * Strong second half sales lifted turnover for the year by 25.5%.
- * The number of active agents rose to 396,000—up 8.5%.
- * Profit before tax dropped by 7.4% due to severe inflationary pressure on costs, higher interest charges on extra borrowings, and the tightening of the Price Code.
- * Profit after tax moved up to £4,083m against £4,035m last year.
- * Dividends for the year are increased by the permitted maximum of 12.5%.
- * The coming year will again be difficult. Concentration will be on safeguarding profitability and on maintaining a proper balance between retained profits and borrowings. But longer term growth plans will not be impaired.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts, when published, will be available from the Company Secretary (01-735 7644)

Freemans (London) SW9 Ltd. 139 Clapham Road London SW9 0HR



London and Manchester Assurance Company Limited

Extracts from the statement by the Chairman,
Mr Lewis Whyte, C.B.E., F.F.A., on the Group Report and Accounts for 1974

Further progress in a difficult year
Welfare Insurance becomes a subsidiary
Hopeful prospects for growth and profitability

1974 was a year which many in business would like to forget, yet the results for the Company as a whole turned out much better than we might have feared. This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work and determination of everyone who works for us. The Directors would like to express their grateful thanks to the staff for all they have done during this very difficult year.

We were delighted to welcome The Rt. Hon. John Peyton, M.P., to our board last summer. He has a wide and varied experience both in politics and business, which will contribute greatly to our deliberations. Mr. Arthur Thew, who reached retiring age last January, retired from the board at the annual general meeting. He has been with the Company for 40 years. We shall greatly miss his companionship, his experience and his infectious enthusiasm. We thank him most warmly for all he has done for the Company.

The Company recently announced that it had acquired Wincade Manor, including a site of 55 acres on the outskirts of Exeter, where a new chief office building will be constructed for occupation by our staff by 1978. This coming move is the culmination of nearly three years' search for a suitable new centre well outside the London commuter belt. The main reasons for the decision are self-evident.

When the move is completed our modern and valuable freehold property in Finsbury Square will be available for sale or letting. In one way or another we hope to realise its valuable potential, which could in time have a beneficial effect of some significance on our investment income.

Welfare Insurance Company Limited

During recent years we had been forming the view that while not aspiring to be one of the giants of our industry, nevertheless, as a medium sized company, we were rather less than optimum size. We had therefore been on the lookout for any smaller life assurance company which might fit in well with our own organisation and be obtainable also on acceptable terms.

It was with this objective in view that last autumn we entered into negotiations for the acquisition of Welfare Insurance, a company which had recently become solely concerned with life business. After difficult and protracted negotiations we acquired a controlling interest of 81 per cent of the share capital for the sum of £26,500. The National Westminster Bank Ltd. had been a school leaver plan with Welfare, acquired 49 per cent on comparable terms. As part of the terms of acquisition the previous owners injected £2m. into Welfare and the National Westminster Bank and others made available temporary loans on favourable terms. Both the new owners are represented on the board of Welfare and we welcome this new working partnership.

The difficulties of some life assurance companies which have expanded rapidly in recent years largely through the sale of single premium growth bonds and the like, followed later by surrenders on a substantial scale, are fairly well known. Welfare was not immune from such difficulties. It has, however, in addition, a substantial long-term business with annual renewable premiums of over £9m. Much of this income derives from the types of contract not issued by your Company, including a promising involvement in pensions business.

The report and accounts of Welfare, as at 31st December, 1974—less than one month after the date of acquisition—reveal the critical financial position of the company at that date. However, ever since the acquisition the new Welfare board has been hard at work carrying out, among many other matters, a very active and advantageous rearrangement of the Stock Exchange investment portfolios; all aimed at re-establishing a sound basis for future expansion. The first charge on surplus, as and when it emerges, will be the repayment of the temporary loans referred to earlier. When this is done we can in time look forward with hope to a satisfactory reward for this commitment. In addition to the wider benefits of embracing an organisation which in large measure is complementary to our own.

Industrial Branch

The new momentum which emerged two or three years ago has been well maintained and is now more fully reflected in the premium income which grew last year by 10.6 per cent.

This expansion is partly, though not entirely, due to the higher weekly earnings among our policyholders. However, the other side of this inflationary coin is the worrying increase in the expense ratio from 41.01 per cent to 44.27 per cent. Part of the increase is due to special expenditure on converting our computer processes; part is due to increases in national insurance contributions, postage, local rates and many other expenses outside our control. The coming move to Exeter should in time contain some of the rises, but the principal benefits of the move will emerge in a gain in investment income.

Ordinary Branch

The new sums assured and new annual premiums show a fall compared with the previous year. The part generated by our own full-time field staff shows a moderate increase, but the amount coming through insurance brokers and other qualified agencies is lower. This was due largely to the deliberate policy, indicated in my statement for last year, of restricting the provision of mortgage and loan money in order to make more money available for investment in marketable fixed interest and equity stocks. As it happened, this policy turned out to be beneficial to our investment experience since many unusually attractive opportunities for investment occurred last year.

At present it seems unlikely that any similar restraint will be considered appropriate this year and, accordingly, the supply of mortgage and loan money will revert again to its more normal level. Therefore, taking the two main sources of the business together, there is a reasonable hope that the total new business in this branch will again expand.

General Branch

After the excellent expansion in the previous two years the growth of about 10 per cent last year was a disappointment. This, however, does not lessen our belief that this branch is capable of playing a much more important part in our organisation than in former years.

Among the reasons for the slower growth are the lack of any material increases in the rates of premium,

a countrywide slowing down in motor business, a strict control on the quality of the business and, regrettably, a tendency among some policyholders to attempt a false economy by under-insuring. Our claims experience was again satisfactory though, since this branch also bears its share of increased expenditure, the net contribution to profit and loss account is small.

We are working in increasingly close co-operation with the Sun Alliance & London Insurance Ltd., the reinsurers, who continue to be most helpful. I would like once again to express our sincere thanks to their directors and officials.

Investments

The valuation of the investments of the long term fund at the end of 1974 disclosed a shortfall on balance sheet value of £8.5m. This figure is based on: (a) the Stock Exchange investment (including 75 per cent of the security dollar premium) at middle market prices at the end of 1974, (b) the valuation of all properties, including our chief office building in Finsbury Square, at current market valuation, (c) mortgages and loans at face value, less reserve.

Large scale changes were made last year in the portfolio of our Stock Exchange investments. They were mainly in the direction of reversing much of what had been done in the previous year, when substantial reductions were made in ordinary shares. Last year, especially during the latter part, we increased the ordinary and convertible sections (where again investment trusts played an important part) by over £10m., financing the purchases partly from the growth of the funds and partly from sales of British Government securities. We were thus in a favourable position to benefit from the dramatic rise in equity prices since the beginning of 1975. A more recent valuation of Stock Exchange investments at end-February shows a recovery of over £31m., which more than recoups the market shortfall of £28.5m. at the year-end.

The comment that too much attention should not be paid to market values on any one day is probably truer now than ever before. However, under our complete bonus system market values at year-end determine the amounts of the terminal bonus. The low figures at end 1974, even when adjusted to the two-year moving average, inevitably mean that any terminal bonuses declared this year are small. On the other hand, the reversionary bonuses are dependent primarily on investment income, which has maintained its buoyancy. The result of changes in the investment portfolio last year has raised the expectation of still higher investment income in 1975, combined with the recovery of asset values to which I have already referred.

Valuation of Liabilities

The Actuary has changed the interest basis used in the net premium method of valuing the life assurance contracts in both branches from 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent. As a direct consequence some totalling £4.5m. have been transferred to the Investments Reserve Fund increasing it to £8.5m. This amount amply exceeds the shortfall of £8.5m. in the investments of the life fund and also the shortfall of £1m. in the investments of the short-term fund.

This change is more than justified by the current level of yields in the investment arena. It is interesting to note that the last change, when the valuation rate of interest was reduced from 3 per cent to 2.5 per cent, was in 1964. Then, the gross rate of interest earned on the Company's funds was approximately 5.47 per cent; now, the rate is over double. The actual rate of interest earned on the life funds in 1974, after allowing for the transfers mentioned above, was 5.95 per cent, compared with £8.75 per cent for the previous year. This gain is the main reason why the reversionary bonus in the Ordinary Branch has been increased to £4 per cent, with increases also in the Industrial Branch.

Any frequent changes in the valuation rates of interest in the net premium method are not desirable. The Actuary hopes therefore that the new rate can be maintained unaltered for some time to come.

Profit and Loss Account and Dividend

The amounts required to provide for terminal bonuses this year are, as would be expected, small. £200,000 has been transferred from inner reserve to the life funds; £125,000 to the Industrial Branch and £75,000 to the Ordinary Branch and one-tenth of the total, namely £20,000, is transferred to profit and loss account.

The normal transfers of £410,000 from the Industrial Branch and £415,000 from the Ordinary Branch are affected by three factors. Compared with the previous year they are increased on account of the growth of the funds; they are also increased on account of the higher rates of reversionary bonus, but they are diminished because of the change in the valuation rate of interest from 2.5 per cent, net to 3 per cent, net.

Total transfers and revenue of the profit and loss account exceed the cost of dividend recommended by £149,000, which is added to the amount carried forward. The dividend recommended is the maximum allowed by legislation. The results for the past year would have allowed an even higher dividend and we share the view expressed recently by many organisations that continuation of dividend restraint is harmful to the economic health of the community.

The Future

Forecasting is always hazardous especially in times like the present. On the other hand, in greater or lesser degree we are forming judgments and taking decisions every day, especially in investment and financial matters. We cannot therefore contract out of taking views about the future. Insofar as matters are within our control—and, of course many are not—we have great confidence about the future of your Company. Indeed, we believe that its present financial strength and the prospects for growth and profitability are better now than ever before.

During the first quarter of the current year there has been an encouraging expansion in the new business of both life branches.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 1st May, 1975. Copies of the Report, which includes the full text of the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary at 50 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1HE.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

EMI's £15m 'rights' offering attracts 88pc acceptances

Entering the lengthening rights issue list with a £15m offering a month ago, EMI's issue of some 18.85 million ordinary shares on a one-for-four basis at 80p a share, underwritten by Lazard and Morgan Grenfell, closed yesterday with acceptances for about 88 per cent of the shares offered. The balance has been sold for the benefit of the ordinary stockholders who have not taken up their entitlement.

The purpose of the issue was to further the development of its business worldwide, but with particular emphasis in the medical electronics field.

As stated in the documents concerning the issue, Morgan Guaranty Trust Co of New York, holding about 5 per cent of the then equity on behalf of residents of the United States, under American law, could not accept subscriptions from such residents. The rights attributable to the holding were to be sold and a syndicate formed which would make an offer for the rights appealing to the then equity holders.

There were eight syndicates tendering competitively—five in the United Kingdom—and acquired by the highest offeror and disposed of as the syndicate thought fit.

The ratio of acceptances compares well with Rio Tinto Zinc's recent £33m offering which attracted 82.7 per cent acceptances of the 22.7 million shares offered at 125p each.

McAlpine to subscribe for 21 pc of Westminster Props

Providing additional working capital in an agreed deal, subject to shareholders' consent, Sir Alfred McAlpine is to pay a total of some £440,000 for slightly more than one-fifth of the equity of Westminster Property Group. McAlpine will subscribe in cash at 25p a share for 1.53m ordinary, which will give it a holding of 21.16 per cent of the Westminster enlarged capital.

Additionally the Westminster directors will invite Mr S. I. McAlpine to join the board, and foster the creation of a positive association between the two companies which will be of mutual benefit.

Peak year at Senior Eng

Senior Engineering, which has a broad spread of interests in engineering products, achieved record profits in 1974. The bulk of the group's taxable profits came in the first half but the second leg, which showed a rise from £1.29m to £1.5m helped to push the full year's figure to £2.85m—a 23 per cent gain on the previous year's £2.3m.

This was struck after interest charges of £331,000 against £262,000. Turnover went up from £22m to £26.9m. The total dividend is raised from equal to 1.15p to 1.35p with a final payment of 0.65p.

The board say the group entered 1975 with outstanding orders some 26 per cent higher than a year ago. The cash flow from profit is strong and together with available borrowing facilities the group has adequate resources to finance present projects and provide additional working capital.

New chief at Hoover optimistic

In his first statement as chairman of Hoover, Mr P. Eoon said the group had put the disappointing results for 1974 behind it and looked like having a good first quarter this year—after losing more than £3m in the final quarter of last year.

Mr Eoon said price increases had so far been accepted by customers, but further rises would be necessary and it was possible that consumer resistance would stiffen. In the race to keep competitive, the policy was to remain as flexible as possible in order to conserve cash and remain profitable.

The company's major expansion was still continuing although the pace was slower than originally envisaged.

Brent Chem feel benefit of Pyrene

Benefiting from a first-time contribution from Pyrene Chemical Services (acquired in mid-1973), Brent Chemicals International on turnover of £80m, stepped up taxable profits 83 per cent to £702,000—easily a record. Attributable earnings moved up from £173,000 to £282,000, and per-share from 4.4p to 10.2p. The dividend is raised from 4.2p to 2.27p, for which Treasury consent has been given because of the merger.

At midway, business was running ahead of targets, while Pyrene was fitting in well with the group. Overseas activity had also grown markedly and represented a substantial portion of the total turnover and profits. By October another record was confidently forecast.

Wall Street

New York, April 8.—The stock market closed higher today in slow trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 6.34 points to 749.40. The Dow Jones industrials closed at the five-point level in the first half-hour of trading, and stayed higher the entire session. Advancing issues outnumbered declining about 62 to 60.

Volume totalled 14,320,000 shares compared with 13,960,000 shares traded yesterday.

US gold up 70c

New York, April 8.—GOLD futures closed 70 cents higher today. The New York Comex index for gold futures rose 70 cents to 100.70 cents. The Chicago Comex index for gold futures rose 70 cents to 100.70 cents. The London Comex index for gold futures rose 70 cents to 100.70 cents.

Hamersley look to higher iron ore prices

The current recession in the world economy adversely affected the immediate prospects for increased iron ore shipments, Mr Russ Madigan, chairman of Hamersley Holdings, told shareholders at the annual meeting. But he expected that marginally more ore would be shipped during the current year than in 1974 when nearly 32.8m wet tonnes was exported from the mine in Western Australia. Mr Madigan added that his prediction was based on the assumption that the current international recession would not deepen.

Current iron ore prices were still too low to justify the development of a major new capacity in Australia. But he was hopeful that the recent price increases, together with the accepted need for more frequent price reviews, would put Hamersley on the path to an adequate real return on assets employed—\$41,000m in today's money.

Business appointments

Two new directors for board of Williams Hudson Group

Mr D. J. Rowland and Mr R. Robertson, directors, and Mr M. J. O. Kettle and Mr R. Bush have resigned from the board of the Williams Hudson Group. Mr H. J. Maitlis has been made a general manager of Standard and Chartered Bank Group.

Mr I. G. Hopkinson, deputy chairman, has been elected chairman, and Mr J. P. Gouding, becomes executive group controller. Mr J. A. Fuller has been made managing director of Hopkinson Holdings.

Mr Simon Everard has been elected vice-chairman of Ellis & Everard. Mr David Walsh, Mr Anthony Bilson and Mr David Wells are to become directors from May 1.

Mr Roland Franklin and Mr Donald Kerr have joined the board of Cannon Assurance.

Mr Alan Calwood, Mr Colin Evans and Mr John March have joined the board of Pauls & Whitely Foods. Mr R. Clyde Wallace joins the board of White Star Lines.

Mr Eric Clayton has retired from the board of Associated Television Corporation but will remain a director of ATV Network. Mr George Freeman has resigned as a director of ATV Network.

Net earnings of Excess Holdings jump 65 pc

Diversified insurance group Excess Holdings, wholly-owned offshoot of International Telephone & Telegraph of the United States, in its annual report shows profit after tax and extraordinary items for 1974 climbing 65 per cent to £6.39m. Worldwide premium income rose by £5.5m to £30.43m in spite of the planned reduction of unprofitable foreign premiums.

Mr William Samengo-Turner, chairman, is generally confident that its long-term future "holds great promise". In the meantime a "substantial" provision has been made in the accounts for doubtful debts in view of the present financial climate. Credit control procedures are also being tightened.

The effect of the fall in stock market prices would have been a fall in the value of investments, but the group maintained a high degree of liquidity and a substantial investment in American dollars. Nevertheless, the value of the group increased some £326,000 to £19.2m.

Eagle Star buys more EPC shares

Eagle Star Insurance which only last week revealed that it had acquired a further 175,000 English Property Corporation 50p shares giving it a stake in the EPC equity of 21.36 per cent has bought a further small parcel. The amounts to 25,000 EPC shares and raises the Eagle Star stake to 21.4 per cent. It was in June last year that EPC became an associate of Eagle Star when it pushed its holding to over 20 per cent.

Ferry Pickering runs into snag

Finishing strongly last year, the Ferry Pickering Group of printers, publishers and packagers put on the pace in the opening months of December. 31st December profit jumped 40 per cent to £34,000 and earnings per share from 3.1p to 4.39p. The half-time payment is raised from 1.5p to 1.68p.

The course of running in the second stage is more doubtful. In the third quarter the group has not been working with the speed of orders experienced in the first-half. The situation, the board says, is difficult to assess, and it believes it may be because of customers' destocking. Further progress for the fourth quarter depends therefore, on this position being corrected.

Brown & Jackson

Brown & Jackson, the Lancashire-based building and civil engineering contractors, has produced record profits and turnover in 1974. Taxable profits rose by 27 per cent from £409,000 to £518,000, and turnover by £7.1m to £7.59m. The total dividend is being raised from 5.11p to 5.74p with a final payment of 3.13p.

Great Boulder Mines slide into interim loss

After 28 weeks, to December 31, Great Boulder Mines saw its net profit of \$472,000 reversed with a loss of \$425,000 (about £236,000). These figures are a stark contrast to the profit of \$291,000 from \$291,000 of \$327,000, depreciation raised from \$164,000 to \$176,000 and exploration write-offs \$20,000 higher at \$100,000 and income from dividends of \$472,000 (\$443,000).

The company said these results reflect up to October 11 the relevant portions of its interests in the joint venture operations with North Kalgoorlie Mines which have now been terminated. After the year's data, revenue and expenditure are all for Great Boulder. Also affecting the outcome was surface subsidence at the Scotia mine which left production of nickel in concentrations down from 2,000 to 1,000 lbs. But at Carr Boyd Rocks, contained nickel output rose from 390 to 670 tonnes. The shares eased 4p to 37p after the announcement.

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Mr Eric Clayton has retired from the board of Associated Television Corporation but will remain a director of ATV Network. Mr George Freeman has resigned as a director of ATV Network.

Mr M. W. Hilton has been made managing director and chief executive of Richard Garrett Engineering in succession to R. M. Handfield who became deputy chairman. Mr Elliot will also join the board of Beyer Peacock.

After the decision of Mr T. L. de Gura to resign as chairman and joint managing director of West Cumberland Mills, Mr M. H. Allan has been elected executive chairman and Mr B. R. Kuber joint managing director with Mr R. R. Sandhu. Mr H. N. Barber becomes financial director.

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Broadcasting
Apart from the charming new series Lakeland Summer (BBC2 9.0) which looks at particularly beautiful part of England there is little else worth watching out for. The Fight Against Slavery (BBC2 9.25) is earnest but a little slow, and You're On Your Own (BBC1 8.10) has never been exciting. In the comedy line, Last of the Summer Wine (BBC1 9.25) is a pleasant yarn about three old codgers, but The Nackers (ITV 9.30) is crude and My Old Man (ITV 8.0) all too predictable.

BBC 1
12.30 pm, Day and Night, 12.55, News, 1.00, Pebble Mill, 1.45, 1.50, Fingerbobs, 4.00, Play School, 4.25, 4.30, News, 4.55, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 5.55, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 6.55, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 7.55, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 8.55, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 9.55, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 10.55, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 11.55, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 12.55, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 1.45, 1.55, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45, 2.55, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 3.55, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 4.55, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 5.55, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 6.55, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 7.55, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 8.55, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 9.55, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 10.55, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 11.55, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 12.55, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 1.45, 1.55, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45, 2.55, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 3.55, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 4.55, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 5.55, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 6.55, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 7.55, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 8.55, 9.00, 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